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JPRS-NEA-84-157

19 October 1984

Near East/South Asia Report

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A

Approved for public release;
Distribution Unlimited

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 4

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19 October 1984

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

'PRO-ARMENIAN' STEPS ASCRIBED TO GREECE, FRANCE, ARGENTINA

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 11 Aug 84 p 1

[Article: "New Games at the UN Concerning the Armenian Question: Seeking a Mention of the 'Armenian Massacre' in Official Report"]

[Text] While Turkey is once again offering an olive branch to Greece and extending a hand in friendship toward France, the French and Greek delegations, making an issue of the Armenian Question, are attempting to use new ploys at the UN at the expense of Turkey.

It is reported that the Greek, French, and Argentine delegations to the meetings of the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva are seeking to have the current official report modified in order to bring it into conformity with the demands of the day. Their actual intention is to add a clause stating that the "Turks murdered Armenians in 1915."

Last year a like effort was undertaken by the Greeks. Addressing the Committee on Human Rights, they asked that a number of articles in the official report be modified. The Greek delegation, to bolster its request, mentioned the massacre which was perpetrated in Lebanon by Israel against the Palestinians. By citing this massacre, the Greek delegation sought once again to place the Armenian Question on the agenda. Last year's attempt was unsuccessful. Again this year the Greek delegates insist that "in order to ensure that massacres similar to the events brought about by the Turks in 1915 not be repeated, and in order that a lesson be learned from them, the Armenian Genocide must be mentioned in the official report." The Argentine delegates also support these Greek demands.

The position taken by the Argentine delegation is explained by the fact that 100,000 Armenians are today residing in Argentina.

If these delegates succeed in adding to the official report the statement that "the Turks massacred the Armenians in 1915," it will be possible to raise this question before the United Nations. A high official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ankara stated that this is a ploy the Armenians have been attempting for many years. The plan is to get the UN to accept the fact of a massacre, and after that to put pressure on Turkey."

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

TURKISH PAPER CRITICIZES FRENCH WEEKLY'S 'PRO-ARMENIAN' ARTICLE

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 15 Aug 84 p 1

[Article: "The Periodical LE POINT About Armenians"]

[Text] Today's issue of MILLIYET contains the following article under the title "Materials to Arouse Sympathy Toward the Armenians."

On the eve of a meeting between the Turkish Armenian Patriarch Archbishop Galustian and Soviet Armenia's highest officer of the church, Catholicos Vazken I, the French newspaper LE POINT carries an article which states that "there are Armenians who do not carry bombs." This newspaper publishes "material arousing compassion" for the Armenians.

The author of the article notes that Soviet Armenians express their nationalistic feelings not only vis-a-vis the Turks and states that the top Soviet Armenian church leaders, Catholicos Vazken I and others, are "appeasers toward the regime."

The LE POINT article states that the Armenian Church, in total contrast to the situation in Poland, supports not the Armenian community in the Soviet Union but rather the Soviet regime. The article states: "Catholicos Vazken I is an appeaser toward the regime. And Karen Demirchian, a high official of the church, has risen to the position of First Secretary of the Communist Party of Armenia."

The article elaborates on the difficult economic straits of Armenians residing in Soviet Armenia and cites sympathy-arousing examples of the difficult conditions under which the Soviet Armenians are living.

The French periodical praises the Armenians for always holding high their nationalist feelings against the Turks. The article describes the anti-Turkish demonstration which took place on Lenin Square in the Armenian capital of Yerevan on 27 April 1965. The article stresses that in that year 150,000 Armenian demonstrators took to the streets chanting the slogan: "We want our lands back from Turkey."

The newspaper LE POINT, which publishes "material to arouse compassion" for the Armenians, presents photographs of elderly Armenians, claiming that "they were saved from the Turkish Genocide."

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Armenian schools to open their doors and to proceed with their work without any impediments during the new school year.

We pray to the Supreme Lord to bless your cabinet with success and our fighters with victory.

Prayfully, Archbishop Ardak Manugian, Prelate of the Armenian Diocese of Tehran.

[Date] 5 September 1984; [Reference] 1760-312.

His Eminence **Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri**, the Honorable Minister of the Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

In the name of God,

We recently learned with grief that, in spite of a previous agreement reached with the Physical Education Organization, the Ministry of the Interior has banned the intra-Armenian athletic games in which the Iranian-Armenian youth and teenagers have taken part for the past 20 years.

As is recalled, the Ministry of the Interior also banned the activities planned and organized for the Armenian Culture Week in October last year.

Thus, within the period of one year, this ministry has prevented the Armenian community twice from proceeding with its cultural and athletic programs, and it continues to impose practical restrictions on the implementation of Iranian-Armenian cultural and social programs.

Beside causing pain, this problem, which has no past precedent, reinforces the concerns of the Armenian community. The continuing impasse over the problems of Armenian schools coupled with practical restrictions imposed on Armenian cultural and social programs have disrupted the Armenian public life and have caused concern and uncertainty in the Armenian community. The latest restrictions have also caused despair among the Armenian athletes who have been training for a long time to participate in the games.

In view of the problems mentioned above, we kindly request that the necessary steps be taken to insure that a more accomodating stance is taken on similar issues in the future.

Prayfully, Archbishop Ardak Manugian, Prelate of the Armenian Diocese of Tehran.

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

'ALLIANCE OF HATRED' AGAINST TURKEY BY ARMENIANS, GREEKS ELABORATED

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 15 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] In an article entitled "Here is an Alliance of Hatred," HURRIYET correspondent Dogan Ulus writes from New York:

U.S. senators of Greek ancestry are doing all they can in conjunction with the Armenian lobby to have anti-Turkish resolutions ratified. Armenian and Greek lobbies spare no effort in their anti-Turkish activities.

Backed by Armenians who have become millionaires after coming to the United States, the Armenian lobby has become an effective force and has been hatching one plot after another against Turkey. Thus, in a country with a population of hundreds of millions, the Armenian community, numbering only 700,000, is able to influence Congress.

Led by California Governor George Deukmejian, who is also a friend of President Reagan, numerous Armenians with important positions influence Congress' decisions. Billionaires like industrialists Alex Manoogian and Edward Mardikian, Metro Goldwyn Mayer owner Kirk Krikorian--who also owns a chain of hotels in Las Vegas--real estate moguls Hovnanian brothers, businessman Tavit Shahririan, who owns 1,100 department stores, and tycoons like Hagop Chuljian and Nshan Alexanian--who once donated \$100,000--make large financial contributions to members of Congress.

The Armenian Church, which administers 100 churches in the United States, also instigates enmity against Turkey. Meanwhile, the Dashnak party [Armenian Revolutionary Federation], which is one of the organizers of Armenian terrorism, participates in anti-Turkish activities in every sphere of life.

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"Our forefathers even gave shelter to a large Jewish community fleeing religious persecution in the 16th century. They thus practically endorsed an important human right that the world has only lately begun to recognize.

"It is a known fact that such acts with short-term political goals can unfortunately cause damages, which are difficult to heal and sometimes irremediable, to friendly relations established between countries through long years of work."

Meanwhile, President Kenan Evren met with Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu in Cankaya at 10:00 am yesterday. Halefoglu briefed the president about the U.S. House of Representatives resolution to declare 24 April a day to commemorate "man's inhumanity to man" and the Senate Foreign Relations Commission's recommendation to take allegations about the Armenian genocide into consideration in the conduct of U.S. foreign policy.

Grand National Assembly President Karaduman also issued a statement deploring the resolutions and said: "The United States has nothing to teach to a nation like Turkey which has gone down in history as a defender of justice and which has provided shelter to minorities fleeing other countries."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Halefoglu disclosed that a meeting to be attended by the President, Prime Minister Ozal and himself will be held on Monday.

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await solution. Nevertheless, the President expressed confidence that his and his government's efforts will be crowned with success if the security situation continues to improve, when normal conditions are restored and when people from all sides have the opportunity to meet and talk to each other and work for the general common interests of Lebanon.

Question: Was there any reference in your conversation to the role of the Armenian community?

Answer: Naturally yes, and extensively.

In the course of our intimate meeting, which lasted more than an hour, we once again expounded, on the basis of practical considerations and tangible deeds, about the unshakable loyalty, dedication and work of the Lebanese-Armenian community and the Catholicate of the Holy See of Cilicia for the preservation of Lebanon's unity and the establishment of peace. We underscored the past and present positive participation of the Armenian community in Lebanese life through its wholehearted and unified efforts in communal and religious circles, at the parliamentary deputy level and in political and party affairs. In particular, we briefed the president about our work during the meetings of the leaders of the religious communities and the active participation of Archbishop Aram Keshishian, the Prelate of the Armenian Diocese of Lebanon, in the commission that was born as a result of those meetings.

On this occasion, we reiterated once again to His Excellency that the posture of the Lebanese-Armenian community is not what it was one or two decades ago. Today, we have a young generation which has grown up in Lebanese conditions and with Lebanese ideas and traditions, which is familiar with the country's language and way of life and which is present and a participant in all Lebanese institutions and population centers. We stated that we no longer wish the role and the work of the Armenian community to be referred to as "contribution", but as "participation."

The President was very pleased with the information and clear explanations we conveyed to him. He, in turn, reemphasized that it is his and his government's desire to have the Lebanese-Armenian community participate more extensively in government institutions and play out its important role in the reconstruction of this country and all aspects of future planning, reorganization and restoration, such as the constitutional commission to be formed as well as other government bodies. The President expects able, competent and dedicated young people with university and practical training in modern science and technology to take part at all levels and in all aspects of the state and government machinery.

Question: What other meetings have you had with religious and government officials lately?

Answer: One week before my meeting with the President, on 20 July, we visited the Patriarch of the Maronite Church, His Holiness Cardinal Antonios Khoraysh, and had a one-hour conversation about the general state of the country, cooperation among religious communities--Moslem and Christian--and the services that we can offer to our homeland.

ENERGY PRODUCTION: NO SOONER DOUBLED THAN CONSUMED

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic No 3127, 14 Sep 84 pp 30-31

[Interview with Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity, by Faruq Abazah: "Whenever We Double Energy Production, Consumption Devours All the Increases"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Even though performance at the Ministry of Electricity has exceeded the national plan projection and surpassed plan allocations for the energy production sector, the minister of electricity, Engineer Muhammad Mahir Abazah, is ringing the alarm bell and drawing attention to a dangerous phenomenon which requires pause and all possible exertions to limit it so that our efforts are not lost in vain...

The phenomenon is that no sooner do we double our electrical power production than consumption climbs at a frightening rate, swallowing up every increase to the extent that during the last 6 months our consumption rate in this area has increased by what amounts to 20 percent. Most of this increase is wasted on luxury consumption as a result of rampant misuse in homes, on decorations and on special occasions. This necessitates the arrival at new measures to rationalize consumption in order to limit this phenomenon which will influence all our planning and efforts to make energy, which we will have to double in the coming years, available.

Al-MUSAWWAR has met with the minister of electricity and energy, one of the 30 international specialists selected by the International Edison Organization for their previous record, knowledge and service in the area of energy production and development, not only in their own countries, but world wide.

[Question] I asked Mahir Abazah: The government has finished drawing up the state's general budget. What is the electricity ministry's share of this budget and is what has been budgeted to cover investments for its ambitious energy development plans sufficient?

[Answer] The electricity ministry's share of the new general budget is 690 million pounds. In fact the state is not sparing in funding the electricity sector's needs, aware of the role which energy plans in

[Answer] During the years which have already passed from the period allocated for the plan, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy has managed to overfulfill its mandate by 30 percent. This fact came out in the debate on the government's statement, and in the report of the committee which was set up to respond to it last year. The question as to the reasons behind this accomplishment might be asked, and the answer is that in 1980 the Ministry of Electricity had succeeded in drawing up for itself a general scientific strategy projected up to the year 2000, and is now in possession of a lucid picture through which it can follow up on its various projects, be they plans for thermal or gas generating stations or distribution lines. This will be done in a co-ordinated, perceptible and clear manner, known to every engineer and technician participating in implementation. In addition the ministry's companies have acquired a platform for implementing inter-connected projects which require co-ordination as far as transformers, generators and distribution are concerned. When I, for example, attempt to transmit current over a distance of 1000 km to a home, this is accomplished in seven stages which complement one another. There is the huge generator from which current flows for hundreds of kilometers, then the transformer station which converts it from one voltage to another, then the small transformer which converts the current from 110 to 220 volts. On my desk there is a small control center whose screen enables me to monitor the condition of the projects, their specifications and manner of operation. In addition there are control centers in Talkha, Alexandria and Naja' Hamadi. All control centers are automatically regulated in a unified network that extends over thousands of kilometers, representing the veins of the human body, with the main control center representing the heart. An electrical network, therefore, is something like veins and arteries, and the smallest of those veins are the lines which light up homes and factories.

[Question] What will be the significance for energy supplies of the Shubra al-Khaymah station, which will soon begin operations after being connected to the main grid?

[Answer] The International Bank has participated in equipping this station. The American aid organization has also participated with a grant of 220 million dollars, in addition to what the French, Japanese and Canadian governments have contributed in grants and easy-term loans. The American consulting firm and Egypt's electricity specialists have scored a great success by any standard. The International Bank considers it to be an international project, implemented with all measures of success. Its first unit will enter production at the end of October 1984 with a capacity of 3.3 million kw and if we take into consideration that in 1952 Egypt's entire capacity was at 50,000 kw, we can appreciate this achievement which by itself is six times our electricity production for 1952 [as published].

This new station will begin operations at the end of October 1984 and will be linked to the general grid. In 1985 work will begin on three new units and we have started to negotiate with the American aid organization

electricity use and directing it towards production, in a manner that sustains a plan for affluence. The countryside comprises one of the most important pillars for bringing it to fruition.

[Question] And what about nuclear power stations and the steps already undertaken to construct the first al-Dab'ah nuclear power station?

[Answer] A study of offers is now in progress and tender envelopes will be opened in October 84. France, America and Germany have each made their offers and the collective of German companies that participated in the tender has been dispatched to consult its government. The executive steps are proceeding according to plan. The project was preceded by exhaustive studies. The preparation of a human complement of scientists and technicians to oversee implementation and operation is now also in progress.

[Question] What about the initiation of new projects in the electricity sector?

[Answer] During the next 3 years, nine new power stations will be in operation at full capacity so as to add 16 billion kw/h to the unified grid in order to make energy available for manufacturing, industrial and agricultural projects. This includes bringing the Abu Sultan station in Ismailia into operation, in addition to the Suez and Abu'qir stations, the Damanhur steam and gas station, the Wadi Hawf, Kafr al-Dawar stations and the second Aswan hydroelectric station. These projects will increase per capita allocation from 500 kw/h to 700 kw/h after 3 years. Add to that the electrification of all the major villages and satellites that contain a thousand inhabitants, and contracting for the construction of new generating stations each with a capacity of 1200 megawatts, including a coal station at 'Uyun Musa, the Sidi Karir generating station to the west of Alexandria and the generating station at al-Kuraymat near al-Jizah governorate.

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criticized the administration's intervention in the elections on the side of those parties that support the government, and although it had expressed its displeasure with the fact that "voters' wishes have been falsified," it has been noticed that the party has been able to double the number of its seats in the recent elections, compared with the number of seats it won in the 1977 elections. The number of these seats is also expected to rise in the indirect elections which will be held next October 2. The Socialist Union had won a considerable number of seats in municipal and rural elections. It is fitting to note that it is the members of municipal and rural councils and professional associations who will elect one third of the members of parliament. The total number of members of parliament will be 306 representatives.

The participation of the Socialist Union in the next government will mean that the left wing has come to power after more than one quarter of a century. This participation confirms a statement that Ahmed Reda Guedira, an adviser to the Moroccan monarch, had made some time ago. Mr Guedira had stated that the requirements for democracy in Morocco "do not preclude that the right-wing and the left-wing succeed each other in government."

And here some observers would remark that there is noticeable harmony between Mr Bouabid's and Mr Guedira's analytical methodologies despite their political and ideological differences. It is this harmony that is reinforcing predictions that the next government will be a coalition government between the Constitutional Union and the Socialist Union, despite the fact that such a coalition seems to be a contradiction in terms. This is because the premises of the Socialist Union, which follows a political course that aligns it with the left, are certainly different from those of the Constitutional Union, which defends [the principles of] free initiative, a liberal economic policy and strengthening the role of the private sector. However, it is no secret that the godfather of the new party--the party that led the parties in the elections--was Guedira himself who usually works behind the scenes. Therefore it will seem that the actual coalition between Abderrahim Bouabid and Ahmed Reda Guedira will be more than a coalition between the Socialist Union's Bouabid and the Constitutional Union's Bouabid.

Support for the Government

According to parliamentary conventions in Morocco, strong parliamentary support for the government is essential so that plans proposed by the government can be passed quietly in the House of Representatives. This means that the National Rally of Independents, which is led by Ahmed Osman, will have to join the expected coalition. The Independents who had played the role of an easy-going opposition in the past 2 years of the term of the previous House of Representatives are aspiring at the present time to return to the ranks of government after winning second place in the recent elections. Also the political situation that has been created by the recent elections makes a coalition government, or perhaps a four-party coalition, inevitable. If the sequence of events follows this view, the Istiqlal Party, which had suffered a severe setback in the recent elections, will return to the ranks of the opposition where it will join two small leftist groups: the Party of Progress and Socialism (two seats) and the Organization of Democratic Popular Action (one seat). These three parties may be joined in the opposition by the National Democratic Party (15 seats).

elections (67 percent compared with 82 percent), he replied, "The difference in voter turnout may be explained by a variety of reasons. First, the elections coincided with the holidays. The second reason was evident in the larger cities, like Casablanca, Rabat and Fes, where the lowest voter turnout was reported. There are universities and institutions of higher learning in those cities, and the date on which these elections were held coincided with the university holidays. The third reason for the low voter turnout is that independents did not run in these elections. Considering the social and ethnic makeup of Morocco, there are still individuals who do not belong to any political party and who hold prominent positions in society. Their absence caused a number of their supporters to turn away from the elections."

The Distribution of Seats

	The Previous Parliament	The Present Parliament
National Rally of Independents	82	38
National Democratic Party	57	15
Istiqlal Party	53	23
Popular Movement	42	31
Socialist Union of Popular Forces	15	34
Party of Progress and Socialism	1	2
Popular Constitutional and Democratic Movement	1	0
Moroccan Labor Federation	1	0
Organization of Democratic and Popular Action	did not participate	1
Constitutional Union	did not participate	55

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restore the Iraqi economic situation to what it was prior to the outbreak of the war on 4 September 1980 by creating alternative routes for the export of its oil after the closure of the routes through the Arab Gulf and Syria. Moreover, observers recall the threats made by Iranian officials last June to strike at the interests of the countries helping Iraq or cooperating with it in the Red Sea. The threats came when the Iranians failed to avert the dangers caused by the Iraqi blockade imposed on Kharj Island and on the important Iranian ports on the Gulf--a blockade which has caused Iranian oil exports to drop to less than one-half their daily rates. This is when Iran resorted to escalating the so-called "tanker war" with the aim of creating a situation that exerts pressure on Iraq.

Observers link those threats with Tehran Radio's praise for the Red Sea mining operations and say that Khomeyni's attempt to disavow responsibility for the planting of the mines does not so much mean that there is no Iranian involvement in these operations inasmuch as it is an indication of the state of political confusion and chaos prevailing among the ruling circles in Iran. These observers believe that even though the latest air and sea attacks carried out by the Iraqi air force and naval forces against Iranian naval targets in the prohibited zone blockaded since last February--attacks which have resulted in hitting and destroying seven vessels and oil tankers and in downing three Iranian F-14 aircraft--come within the framework of intensifying the Iraqi blockade of Kharj Island, they also constitute Iraqi retaliation for the Iranian involvement in the Red Sea mining. Moreover, Iraq's determination to strangle Iran economically and Iraq's resolution to carry on with the blockade to its decisive conclusion are intensifying the Iranian crisis in the war. The [Iranian] attempts to obstruct navigation and oil exports through the other waterways are not alleviating the impact of this crisis. On the contrary, these attempts are further intensifying the crisis, considering that the other countries overlooking these waterways find themselves compelled to close them to Iranian navigation and trade.

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included measures for the implementation of the project in two phases. The first phase involved using chemicals to increase the pumping [capacity] of the line to 750,000 barrels per day. Immediate and quickly applicable measures were begun with the Turkish side to implement this phase, which actually was completed in 1983. Concerning the second phase, tender documents and conditions have been prepared with participation of experts from among qualified Iraqi cadres. In addition, engineers and technicians from the oil sector alongside Turkish experts have participated constantly with the consulting firm to draw up the designs and make sure they are consistent with the demands of quickly completing the pipeline expansions. The second phase expansions contract was signed in March 1983 and work was immediately begun to add two new pumping stations on the Iraqi side of the line and three new intermediate stations on the Turkish side of the pipeline, and to extend the part of the line that parallels the border by 70 kilometers at the end of the pipeline to be commensurate with the above-mentioned increase in pumping capacity of the project. Thus, activities are nearly complete on the project and it is hoped that the second phase expansion will become operational this July, giving us the ability to increase the pumping capacity of the project gradually and eliminate the injection of chemicals, especially since the injection of substances imported from abroad is very costly."

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CSO: 4404/625

HEBRON BUS COMPANY ISSUES REVIEWED

Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 14 Aug 84 p 8

[Article: "Serious Difficulty in Need of a Fundamental Solution Surrounds the New Hebron Bus Station"]

[Text] The problems of the Hebron National Bus Company are still very much to be reckoned with and in need of a fundamental solution, especially since the company provides vital and important services to all Hebron residents.

AL-FAJR undertook to investigate the situation to learn the facts from the officials themselves, meeting with both the director of the company, Fayiz al-Qawasimi, and Acting Mayor of Hebron Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, who was discharged by the Israeli authorities, in order to give the respected citizens a glimpse of the history of this important company.

Qawasimi said: "This company was initially established under the name Workers' Cooperative Company in 1932. In 1941 it became the Hebron National Bus Company, and in 1946 (during the British mandate) it was registered in the Registry of Companies and continued to operate between Hebron and Jerusalem.

During the Jordanian period the company was registered in 1963 under the name United National Hebron Bus Company, and recently, under the Israeli occupation, it was registered in Ramallah as Number 1063.

"The company now has 36 buses and around 60 employees. Its problems began when settlers took the garage in 1983 after they had taken the Usamah ibn Munqidh School in 1982 following 'Operation al-Dabuya.'"

Fayiz al-Qawasimi said: "The bus station was formerly on a ruin, and in 1950 the municipality moved us to this location, which it rented to us, and we made improvements on the land and constructed some buildings on it. The municipality had rented this piece of land from the Superintendent of Absentee Property and signed an official contract which is unconditionally renewed every year.

"In the year 1967, after the occupation, the municipality undertook to renew the contract with the Superintendent of Absentee Property as the central bus station in Hebron. We consequently undertook to renew the lease with the municipality at the municipality's request, and to renovate the buildings and add concrete reinforcement. In 1983 we began building walls to prevent the entry of private automobiles with the municipality's agreement, but the Israeli army interfered and prevented us from completing the work."

With regard to the next session of the court, al-Natshah said: "It will meet again on 24 October."

With regard to his own view of the bus station, al-Natshah said: "This new bus station does not serve the community at all, and it is far from the center of town."

After this AL-FAJR contacted the Nasir-al-Din family, owners of the new bus station's land, which has requested a restraining order to prevent the land's appropriation. The court has decided to have three judges rule on the case instead of one. The trial has been postponed, and there has been no decision until now; it is possible that a decision will be issued after the court vacation.

9310

CSO: 4404/650

GREEK RECOGNITION POSSIBLE—Constantine Mitsotakis, the newly elected leader of Greece's conservative opposition New Democracy Party, says he will make it a foreign policy priority to extend full diplomatic recognition to Israel once he is elected to power. The 66-year-old Mitsotakis, a veteran politician and former foreign minister, replaced the less charismatic, 74-year-old former defence minister Evangelos Averoff in a decisive victory for the leadership of Greece's main opposition party on September 1. In an exclusive interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, he said that once his party is elected to power, he will "quickly recognize the State of Israel," adding: The failure to recognize Israel by successive Greek governments is an anomaly which has dragged on for too long. When our party comes to power, I will grant full recognition at the very first opportunity. But this does not mean that we must necessarily neglect our traditionally good ties with the Arab world and Eastern Bloc." [Lee Stokes] [Excerpt] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Sep 84 pp 1, 4]

INCREASE IN EXPORTS—The Central Bureau of Statistics reports that overall exports for the first 8 months of the year have increased by 12.4 percent compared to the same period last year, and totals \$3.5 billion. [Excerpt] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Sep 84 TA]

TRADE DEFICIT DROP—The Central Bureau of Statistics reports that in the first 8 months of the year, Israel's trade deficit decreased by 25 percent. The deficit totals \$1.88 billion. [Excerpt] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Sep 84 TA]

CSO: 4400/5

CONFERENCE ON RED SEA SECURITY CALLED FOR

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Aug 84 p 4

[Article by Musa Keilani: "Red Sea Security--an Arab Point of View"]

[Text]

THIS IS the first of a twice-weekly column on current political and social issues that analyses the situation in Jordan and the Arab region. Mr. Keilani is a career Jordanian diplomat. He served as ambassador to Bahrain from 1975 to 1980 and to Sudan from 1982-1984. From 1980 until 1982, Ambassador Keilani was director of information at the Foreign Ministry. Prior to his appointment as ambassador, he was director general of Jordan Radio, and before that director general of the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, having started his career as attache at the Foreign Ministry where he served in Cairo and London. Ambassador Keilani has now settled in Amman and is devoting his time to research and writing. His columns will appear in the Jordan Times every Wednesday and Saturday.

DUE TO the international character of the Red Sea as a trade navigational highway, it is imperative of the Arab littoral states to call for a security conference. Since 85 per cent of its shares are Arab shares, and since its security is integrally related to the Arab-Gulf security, and since the security of both, are organic parts of the total collective Arab security, it is imperative to have an urgent call for such a conference.

The mining and explosions in the Red Sea since July 17th, are bound to have their immediate sinister impact on all littoral states as well as triggering more sinister repercussions by providing a new front for the cold war between the two superpowers.

From this perspective, Jordan is best qualified to call for an Arab conference for the Red Sea security. With the arr-

ival of the Americans and Soviet minesweepers and flotilla, the rivalry by the two superpowers is taking an ominous dimension. All littoral states are directly concerned, but Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia are more involved because of the regional situation.

Only Jordan can get the proper responsees for such a call. Cairo cannot get the same expected response because of its Camp David ties. Other Arab calls might encounter a slow-motion mechanism. The vitality and dynamism of Jordan would guarantee an active momentum for such a call because of the positive constituents of Jordan's foreign policy role.

All littoral states — including Ethiopia, Israel and South Yemen — are bound to suffer the pernicious consequences of mining the Red Sea as a vital artery in the world economy. They are bound as

DAM PROJECT TO IMPROVE SOUTHERN IRRIGATION

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23-24 Aug 84 p 3

[Text]

AMMAN (J.T.) — The end of 1984 will witness the completion of the civil works section of a project now underway south of the Dead Sea which will exploit the Mujib River waters to develop a large agricultural area in southern Jordan. Dr. Munther Haddadin, president of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) which is implementing the multi-million dollar project said that the civil works, that precede the irrigation scheme, will cost \$53.84 million and will be carried out in Ghor Al Safi, Ghor Al Thiraa', Fifa and Khanzireh, all near the Dead Sea.

"The civil works will be the first stage in the huge project, designed to harness the water of the river that had for ages emptied itself uselessly into the Dead Sea," said Dr. Haddadin.

Speaking in a recent interview, he said that the project had not been feasible in the past because it required advanced technology and necessary funds, and also the topographic nature of the land in the region discouraged all planners.

Each part of the two-stage project entails several small schemes, but the final target will be reclaiming and irrigating more than 100,000 dunums of land using pipe networks instead of open canals and substituting the open irrigation method with drip irrigation, Dr. Haddadin said. In this way, he added, water can be saved and used more economically to irrigate vast areas of land.

According to Dr. Haddadin, the first stage of the project entails

building civil works, housing units and other infrastructure works such as workshops for maintaining machinery and equipment, the installation of drip irrigation equipment and the building of a marketing centre. There will be another centre for research and agricultural guidance in addition to administrative buildings, he said.

An Italian firm was awarded a tender for the civil works and completed the task at Ghor Al Safi in 1982, while the civil works for Ghor Thiraa', Haditha, Mazra'aa Fifa, and Khanzireh were awarded in 1982 are due to be completed by February 1985, Dr. Haddadin said.

In order to pave the way for the second stage of the project Dr. Haddadin said that the JVA has contracted Japanese specialists to conduct a feasibility study on developing the underground water found in the southern Jordan Valley. The studies have been completed and the scheme will be carried out, he said.

This second stage of the Mujib project, he said, will cost \$186.2 million and entails developing water resources, building a 48-metre high diversion dam at a point where the Mujib enters Al Hidan valley and another dam called Tannour in the Hassa Valley to store up to 10 million cubic metres of water.

This stage also includes works for exploiting the Mujib river for irrigation purposes, reclaiming land and installing irrigation pipe networks to feed nearly 56,000 dunums of land with water, Dr.

PHOSPHATE INDUSTRY STARTS EXPANSION PROJECT

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Aug 84 pp 1, 3

[Article by Rami G. Khouri]

[Text]

•AMMAN — After four consecutive years of flat growth and earnings, the Jordanian phosphate industry has started implementing a major expansion programme that may rely heavily for sales and financing on barter and offsetting deals with its major trading partners in Japan, the United States and Europe.

During 1980-83, Jordan's phosphate exports rose by less than five per cent to reach 3.7 million tons in 1983, generating net revenues of \$160 million. This figure includes the income from another 615,719 tons of phosphate rock sold domestically to the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company at Aqaba, which processes it into chemical fertilisers for export.

A management change early last year brought in Wasef Azar as general manager, and he has embarked on an aggressive new strategy that includes a combination of cost-cutting and increased production and exports.

The workforce has been cut by some 20 per cent, to 3,300. Other savings in fuel use, spares and operational contracts have combined to give the 90 per cent government owned Jordan Phosphate Mines Company Ltd. (JPMC) a profit of JD 8.2 million last year, compared to 1982 profits of JD 5.1 million.

Mr. Azar credits the cost-cutting measures with maintaining the company's profitability, as it was reaching a point where the cost of producing a ton of phosphate rock was greater than the

international sales price of a ton of rock.

Already concluded sales contracts will see the company finish this year with production of 5.8 million tons, and total sales of at least 5.6 million tons, generating revenues of \$180 million. Expansion plans costing JD 35 million over the next three years will increase production from the three existing mines to over seven million tons per year by 1987. These expansion projects include buying several more of the giant walking dragline excavators used to remove the overburden that covers the phosphate deposits in the ground, upgrading processing plants and material handling systems, and improving storage, maintenance and transport systems.

Barter deals

An increasing share of export sales will include barter arrangements by which foreign contractors and manufacturers selling to the JPMC or to other public sector entities will be paid partly or fully in phosphate rock that the company will sell on behalf of the foreign companies in their own countries. The revenues from the sales of this bartered phosphate rock will go to pay for the services and goods purchased from the foreign companies.

The Jordanian state railways hopes soon to clinch a major deal to buy new phosphate wagons from France that will be half paid for in phosphate rock that the

BRIEFS

REMITTANCE FROM ABROAD--Amman, AR-RA'Y--Remittances from Jordanian workers abroad rose during the first quarter of this year to 105 million Jordanian dinars. This was an increase of about 15 million Jordanian dinars compared to the same period last year, when remittances stood at 89.76 million Jordanian dinars. A source at the Jordanian Central Bank said that if the current rate is maintained during the period from April to the end of December, remittances will total 420 million Jordanian dinars--8 million Jordanian dinars more than last year. [Excerpt] [Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Sep 84 pp 1, 19]

RURAL WATER DEVELOPMENT--AMMAN (Petra)--The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) announced Sunday that it is conducting a comprehensive survey of villages in Jordan prior to embarking on a scheme to supply all population settlements around them with water. WAJ Director General Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani said that at present the authority is building networks of pipes to feed Bani Hamida villages in Madaba district with water and the project is expected to cost JD 350,000. The network, which will supply water to 18 villages entails laying main pipelines in the first stage whilst in the second stage pipes will be laid to take water to internal areas. The whole project will be finished by the end of this year, Mr. Keilani said. He also said that a tender for a sewerage project for Madaba, expected to cost JD 3 million, will be announced early next year. [Text] [Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Aug 84 p 3]

CSO: 4400/8

2. Governorship of Bank of Lebanon

At the end of this August, the term of Shaykh Michel al-Khuri as governor of the Bank of Lebanon expires.

Perhaps the selection of a replacement to the governor of the Bank of Lebanon will be the most delicate and sensitive decision, especially during the current stage when the Lebanese banking system faces many challenges.

It is well known that the Bank of Lebanon, during the era of Michel al-Khuri, has witnessed a distinguished period. He brought the bank to play an active and influential role in the market. Some fear that the "politicization" of this post is something that will have very negative repercussions in the banking sector. Previous experiences are the cause of the concerns in this regard.

If efforts aimed at extending the term of the current governor fail, the appointment of a new governor will coincide with the appointment of the three deputy governors, whose posts have been vacant for some time. This means that it is necessary to form fiscal leadership that is capable of comprehending Lebanon's financial demands in the coming phase, whether it be a period of stability and prosperity or a period of instability and fluctuation. However, the list of names for the post is short. In fact, the only name proposed up to now is Dr Khitar Shabli (director general of the Ministry of Finance), and he faces some opposition. It is sufficient to name some of the previous governors, from former President Ilyas Sarkis to Shaykh Michel al-Khuri, to know the extent of the present difficulties in finding the appropriate personality for this post.

3. Intra Investment Company

The third administrative imperative that appears to be delayed somewhat (perhaps until October) is the chairmanship of the board of the Intra Investment Company. Recent developments witnessed by the company--the conflict between its chairman and the state of Kuwait or the resignation of some members and the boycotting by some others, for example--make it necessary to say that instituting a change in Intra's chairmanship has become likely in the context of necessary moves to restore the company to its natural position. The fact is that the current board is no longer able to convene more than half of its 12 members because of the boycott of the three Arab representatives, the resignation of Mr Robert Sarsaw, the uncertain position of Mr Khaldun Subrah, and the resignation of Mr Fu'ad Bahali, which is likely to soon become final.

Therefore, the position of the company, especially in terms of its Arab dimension, has come to require fundamental treatment.

It is conspicuous that some names as candidates for this post have begun to circulate, the foremost being Mr Pierre De Sa'b. The Kuwaitis have proposed some other names in this regard.

KARAMI FORCED TO DEAL WITH WEST BEIRUT VIOLENCE

Beirut AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 71, 18 Aug 84 p 20

[Article by Ibrahim al-Burjawi: "Arter Increased Criticism on Part of His Allies, Karami Is Between Rock of Rule and Hard Place of Opposition"]

[Text] Beirut--No observer of the Lebanese events can disregard in any way the extent of the stormy differences among the members of the national unity government--differences which surfaced recently through the positions and statements of ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt and the reactions of the media of the Phalange Party and of the Lebanese Forces. These differences have, as all are aware, led to delaying implementation of the security plan, i.e. deployment of the legitimate army in the mountain and the north. They have also led to obstructing completion of the security plan for Greater Beirut, especially at the level of abolishing sectarian separation in the military brigades and divisions maintaining security in the eastern, western and central parts of Beirut and the level of returning the fifth dock of Beirut Port to legitimate authority and of ending the Lebanese Forces' utilization of this dock.

The circles of ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt accuse the government of failing to implement what was agreed upon in Lausanne and at the Damascus Summit between Presidents Amin al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad. Ministers Birri and Junblatt see in the regime's proposals regarding the mountain security plan an endeavor to restore politically what was lost by war. Before deployment of the legitimate army in al-Shuf and 'Alayh and the return of the Christian evacuees to these two areas, Birri and Junblatt demand that transfers be made among the army officers to restore a sectarian balance to its command, that the army be deployed in the areas controlled by the Lebanese Forces, especially on the international coastal highway from al-Awwali in the south to al-Madfun Bridge in the north, that the Lebanese Forces' roadblock in al-Barbarah--a roadblock that separates the north from the other parts of Lebanon--be removed, that the illegal ports all along the highway be closed and that the Lebanese Forces be evacuated from al-Damur road.

The circles of both ministers assert that Damascus supports their position and that it is exerting pressure on the regime to achieve these objectives. Meanwhile, the regime's sources deny that Damascus supports this tendency because Syrian officials are fully aware of the degree of criticism which President Amin al-Jumayyil gets from the Lebanese Forces and the Phalange

CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED SOUTH SURVEYED

Paris LE MONDE in French 20, 21 Sep 84

[Article by Special Correspondent Francois Chipaux: "Southern Lebanon Caged In"]

[20 Sep 84 pp 1, 5]

[Text] The Narrow Doorway

Sidon--"Southern Lebanon has become a huge prison. The only difference is that it is easier to get out than to get in." This disillusioned comment made by a merchant from Tyre is a good illustration of the resentment of the inhabitants of the south, whether they are Christians or Muslims, at the strengthening of the security measures taken by Israel in order to cut off the territory under its occupation from the rest of the country. Nearly 800,000 persons, three fourths of them of the Muslim religion and a great majority of those Shi'ites, are thus isolated in one third of the Lebanese territory.

On the Jezzine trail, with the sun beating down, even though it was only 900, Salim, his plastic bag stuffed with books, his cardboard valise closed by means of string, had been waiting since 500 for a place in one of the five broken-down buses that transport Muslims to the only point authorized for leaving or entering Southern Lebanon. Five little kilometers separate Jezzine from Batir, where the Israeli checkpoint is located, but no individual automobile is admitted there, and transport by bus is compulsory.

Cars had just begun the shuttle service. About 2,000 people were pressed together on the small square, which had been transformed into a caravansary. The sole seller of the precious pass was wearing himself out tempering the passion or the anger of the candidates, who were threatening at any moment to overturn his hut, which was under a tree. The arrival of each bus provoked indescribable scuffles. A militiaman in civilian clothes, an Israeli Uzi submachine gun in his hand, was shooting into the air to try to see to it that the quota of 30 to 40 passengers per vehicle was observed. A waste of effort. In our bus there were nearly 70 people, most of them encumbered with four or five parcels. The ticket, which was theoretically 15 pounds*, was being negotiated at all prices, and it was even suggested that we do the crucial 5 km in an individual car for 700 pounds (almost 1,000 French francs)!

*1 franc = 0.7466.

The "Christian Boat"

Rechristened since it was rerouted to Larnaca-Beirut by the Israeli navy two months before, the Alizur Blanco had become the Charlie One. It was capable of transporting 400 persons in a 2-and-a-half-hour crossing. On this particular morning, the "Christian boat" was filled on its departure from the capital. Many families who were going to see their relatives in the South, religious who were going to a seminary, Lebanese Forces fighters going to their posts in Iqlim al-Kharrub, where there are ongoing engagements between Christian militia and Druze militia from the Progressive Socialist Party.

When we arrived within sight of Jiye, an Israeli patrol boat made its appearance. It circled us, twin-mounted machine guns aimed at the ship. At its rail, a civilian scrutinized the passengers' faces with binoculars. Distress suddenly replaced the carefree atmosphere of a cruise that until then had been trouble-free. One of us, who wanted to take some photographs, was immediately prevented from doing so by those more prudent ones who feared trouble. "Sometimes they come aboard, verify the passenger list and search some of the baggage," said a woman who was going to the South for a few days' vacation. "The worst thing with them is that you never know what they are going to do. They can just as easily order us to stop offshore for 2 or 3 hours, with no explanation, and order us to turn around and go back." On this day, after 3 quarters of an hour of waiting, the boat berths with no problems. On the wharf, 15 Lebanese Forces militiamen, with their weapons slung over their shoulders, took a hard look at the new arrivals. Israeli tanks were stationed along the road leading to the al-Awwali bridge and from there to Sidon. Checking is limited to identity papers and the search is more than a summary one. Undoubtedly the Israelis are relying on the Lebanese Forces; they know they have done this work before the Israelis came.

In any case, restrictions on passage are a source of considerable revenue, that essentially benefits the Lebanese Forces, for maritime transport, the Southern Lebanon Army (ALS), a militia that was created, financed and trained by Israel at Jezzine, and finally the PSP's [Progressive Socialist Party] Druze, who established, on the other side of Batir, a 25-pound charge per automobile and several hundred pounds for a truck. The Lebanese Forces receive 25 of the 100 pounds paid for transport from Beirut to Jiye, while in Jezzine, a city with a Christian majority, the ALS pockets 10 pounds of the 15-pound bus fare.

A Fruitful Traffic

The highway trip to Beirut, imposed on Muslims by Israel, leads to a juicy traffic. In fact, it all begins, for the candidate for the trip, with the search for Israeli authorization to leave Southern Lebanon and especially to return to it. This authorization to pass is obtained free by the different Israeli QG [headquarters staff] stationed in the South, but the wait is often interminable, the offices closed for unexplained reasons, the official "gone for the day." Lebanese agents obligingly propose, for 100, 200 or 300 pounds, to unjam the affair and are confident they can obtain the precious open Sesame. As a general rule, they succeed, but sometimes they vanish into the wilds with the money. "This fruitful traffic," says Mr Bizri, the only Southern Lebanon deputy who is still a resident there, "is encouraged by the Israeli army, which has built up in this way a clientele of unscrupulous debtors and informers."

Jaba;-Safi observation post, which the Israeli army has established in southern Lebanon. A more or less prolonged stay in these centers, which the International Red Cross Committee (CICR) is not authorized to visit, generally precedes imprisonment in the Ansar camp.

With the increased attacks against its troops, Israel has hardened its occupation and the repression of "hostile activities." All the testimony that has been collected tells of "torture" in these interrogation centers in which prisoners sometimes remain for as long as 3 months. An al-Nabatiyah physician, who spent one night near the company, told us he heard cries of suffering.

While the Israeli military presence is making itself less visible, the men of the Shin Bet (information services) and those of the antiterrorist unit, which generally operates in the occupied territories, abound in southern Lebanon. In civilian clothes, they circulate in automobiles bearing Lebanese plates or no registration. They cross the UNIFIL zones with their weapons, on presenting their cards. "When they refuse to show them, they are turned back," a UNIFIL official told us. "That leads to a few protests. Nothing more can be done." These agents can be seen throughout the region, coming out of Israeli barracks and stopping cars on the roads. Moreover, they could be confused very easily with Lebanese youths, whose relaxed style they have adopted, jeans and T-shirts. Most of the arrests are now being carried out by these "specialists" who most often operate at night. Suddenly they disembark from several vehicles in a village, causing agitation among the populace and very often disorders, which on several occasions have resulted in men dying. The French soldiers of UNIFIL, after an incident of that kind in a village in their zone, gave flares to the inhabitants so they could warn them of any untimely arrival. In Ma'rakah, since the August disorders, 15 Senegalese soldiers of the Interim Force have been patrolling at night in the village.

"When you see them arriving, you follow them and try to find out what they want. But they say they are acting on behalf of the security of the occupation forces, and there isn't much we can do," a UNIFIL official acknowledges. In the entire zone where the UN soldiers are deployed, the Israeli army also has permanent posts, and relations between the two authorities are not without problems. "Since we arrived before they did, we have the best positions, and they come and settle near us. Moreover, since we are not being shot at, it gives them a little security. You have to understand those things," our interlocutor adds. However, this neighborliness is not always understood by the populace, who expect protection from the "Blue Helmets."

Emptied of its occupants last November, the Ansar camp today contains between 700 and 800 prisoners, 3 quarters of whom are probably Amal sympathizers. To that figure must be added the prisoners who are in the interrogation centers, whose number is difficult to establish, as well as the resisters, on whom the heaviest suspicion falls and who are actually imprisoned in Israeli.

Things have really changed for the Israeli troops since June 1982, all the way into the border strip that has been occupied since 1978 by the Hebrew state. "Before, people easily went into Israel to work or for treatment," admits a teacher from Ayn-Ibil, a little Christian village on the "good border." Such visits have become extremely rare despite the special identity card obtained on request by the sector's inhabitants so they can enter the neighboring country without any problems. Of course they are still working in the factories of

could derive from the free port of Haifa. To avoid customs duties in Lebanon, these shrewd operators import from Europe tons of merchandise that they unload at Haifa for the price of a very low levy of 1 percent intended to finance the ALS. Encouraged by Israel, this traffic thus pays for its allies, the ALS on the one hand and the Christian or Druze militias on the other.

The losers are the small local merchants who are ruined by this competition. Thus, the Christian of Sidon, whose custom it was to ship a truckload of citrus fruit to Beirut every day, can no longer do so more often than once a month. "The ferry only transports five or six trucks on each trip," he says, and then consoles himself: "It's even worse for the Muslims, who have to go by road."

The governor of Tyre and Bent-Jbail, Ghassan Haydar, is tired of inventorying all his encounters with the occupiers. "Yesterday," he told us, "I spent 10 hours in Tyre to obtain authorization to have a vessel boarded that was carrying wheat from Beirut and had been waiting 2 weeks in the roads. They want us to see their farina, but here the state subsidizes wheat to keep the price of bread at an acceptable level. By preventing the arrival of vessels, they make prices rise and increase the tension. In another area, we obtained 50 million pounds from the state to repair the roads (which are especially broken up in the south by poor maintenance and the constant passing of Israeli armored vehicles), but until now the Israelis wouldn't let the asphalt from Beirut get through. They want it to be bought from them. So nothing is done, and in 2 months it will be too late because of the rains."

In this region, where 80 percent of the jobs are in agriculture, failure is threatening. The fate of the fishermen of Tyre, Sarafand or Sidon is scarcely an enviable one. All of them are forbidden to go beyond a perimeter of 5 km around their port of registry, and at sea they are harassed by the Israeli navy, which is increasing its controls. Then, when they return to port, they have to pay the ALS a tax on their catches.

These taxes, levied in the most complete illegality by the ALS or the militias, have become a plague of which as many Christians as Muslims are complaining. They all have the feeling they are being ransomed at every step of the way. "To do or obtain anything at all," comments Dr Bizri, the deputy from Sidon, "you have to pay. For every administrative act, the purchase or sale of a plot of land, obtaining an identity card or a certificate of civilian status, the ALS or the Lebanese Forces take a percentage." Every family must pay a "contribution" which is often extorted from it. Through these practises the ALS is getting itself detested by a populace whose resistance to the occupier is growing constantly.

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CSO: 4419/1

That was how it happened that shortly before 6 February, when the road from the mountain to Damascus, on the southern outskirts of Beirut, came under the control of the PSP [Progressive Socialist Party], the Druse militia and Amal, the Syrians authorized a number of officials of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine--General Command (PFLP-GC) of Ahmad Jabril to return to the Beirut camps, in hopes of seeing them break the influence of Yasir Arafat, which is still strong among the refugees.

Conversely, the Lebanese forces (Unified Christian Militia) are said to have authorized passage in their territory for loyalists of Yasir Arafat, back from Tripoli, thus betting on troubles to come between those faithful to the Palestinian leader and his dissidents.

Armament in the Camps

Calculating the importance of these returns is uncertain, because many fighters or leaders come and go, either quite simply to visit their families, or on special missions. Ahmad Jabril, the head of the PFLP-GC, thus came to share a meal with his followers in Burj al-Barajinah in late June, during the month of Ramadan, but left again immediately. The Palestinians' fate has periodically been the subject in Damascus of negotiations between the Amal leaders of the PSP, the dissidents of Abu Musa and the Syrian leaders, who are also opposed to any resurgence of a Palestinian role in Beirut.

One thing is certain, however, which is that the Palestinian organizations have again made an appearance in the camps, where, as in Beirut, some of them--the most pro-Syrian, like the al-Sa'iqah, the PFLP-GC and Abu Musa's dissidents--have re-opened offices of a political nature next door to their social headquarters. The others, like the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine of George Habash and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine of Nayif Hawatmah, for the time being are confining themselves to running cultural and sports clubs which have the advantage of bringing together a large number of people.

However, all of this activity is strictly confined to an area inside the camp at Burj al-Barajinah, all of the accesses to which are guarded by the sixth brigade. For although security within the camp is provided by the Palestinians, it is Amal or the sixth brigade that are responsible for it on the outside. The situation is different in Sabra and Shatila, where Amal has a headquarters in the camp and provides the police force there, which on occasion has led to violent encounters between Shi'ite militia and Palestinians.

As far as weaponry is concerned, although there is no doubt that most of the fighters have recovered individual weapons and many are buying them to "ensure their protection," as one of them said, the Palestinians have not reconstituted their military power and the heavy weapons are no longer to be found in large quantities in the camps. Some of them, moreover, were recovered after 1982 by the Amal militiamen, who protect them jealously.

The timid reorganization of the camps is being done, for the time being, to the detriment of Yasir Arafat's Fatah, which is practically absent from the scene at Burj al-Barajinah, and the loyalist leader of the PLO, who says he is simply a cab driver, says he thinks "only 10 percent of the former political activity has

only issue is religion. It's not a bad thing to return to a religious conscience. It's a way of expressing the fact of being Palestinian, it's one form of cohesiveness."

The second reaction, which is very common in Palestinians of all ages, but especially in the young, is the desire to leave. "If they could, most of them would leave Lebanon," the leader of the international organizations believes. The welcoming country whose name is on the lips of all Palestinians today is Sweden. Why Sweden? "Because they don't deport us," replies Hassa. All of them live under the illusion that they will leave for Sweden," says one of the UNWRA officials. "Many have already left, but many will never be able to go."

In her very clean small apartment, at the bottom of a tortuous alley, whose open sewer carries greasy water, Mme Safis would really like to have news of her son, who left 4 days ago for this new Eldorado. In his wallet he is carrying a card with the telephone number and address of a Stockholm hotel. "That is where he is to go," she says, "until the Swedes find work for him and get him settled." "It's a conspiracy against the Palestinians, to erode our unity," Yusuf comments bitterly. "Arafat is personally in favor of emigration, because he gave in, in order to have a Palestinian mini-state and there will be no place for us, the 1948 refugees. The only ones who will be able to get there will be the inhabitants of Cisjordan and Gaza."

The problem, for many Palestinians, however, is still the difficulty they encounter in order to obtain a passport. Yusuf requested his in July 1983, but he still awaits an answer. And, he sighs, not without humor, "after 7 months in their prisons, they are familiar with my record." Shafiq al-Hut admits that in that respect the situation has improved slightly in the last year, but that the problem remains a crucial one. "If they don't want to give us travel permits," he says, "let them at least give us the right to go and seek one somewhere else. Palestinians are not asking for privileges, but for respect for the rights that are guaranteed them in the Arab countries, and Lebanon is an Arab country." "We just want a normal life on our own land," concludes Mr al-Hut, sweeping away a past that nevertheless is now feeding the distrust of nearly all of the Lebanese for the Palestinians.

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CSO: 4419/1

of the national currency, and asked him about the objectives of this measure. Dr Shabli offered the following explanation:

"The Lebanese pound has been facing for a long time pressures in the local market that have caused and are still causing its exchange rate to decline versus the foreign currencies, especially versus the U.S. dollar, which is benefiting from high interest rates [in the United States] and benefiting locally from other causes, the most significant being the speculation activities. All this has created numerous difficulties for the Lebanese pound. The financial authorities have had to confront these difficulties in order to protect the price of the national currency. This is a legitimate and essential national confrontation to which most countries of the world resort.

"In the course of examining the steps that need to be taken to bolster the pound's price, the currency and financial authorities decided to raise the interest rates for the bonds issued for the treasury and subscribed to by the banks in Lebanese pounds. We decided this when we found out that high interest rates offer an important "inducement" in converting those who deal in the money market from transactions in currencies yielding low interest rates to currencies yielding high interest rates. This will contribute to increasing the demand for the Lebanese pound and, consequently, to improving the pound's exchange price and position versus the dollar and the other western currencies, especially since this policy has proven its effectiveness and success in more than one country adopting it, as in the case of the United States where the dollar is obviously benefiting from the high interest rates in improving its position in the major money markets.

"In addition to the above, the improvement in the pound's exchange rate, which will be followed by an immediate drop in the prices of the major European currencies and of the U.S. dollar, will contribute by a large degree to reducing the cost of Lebanese imports, most of which are paid for in dollars, and, subsequently, to reducing the cost of living and to reviving the economic cycle which is currently experiencing considerable stagnation.

"These are the objectives of the Ministry of Finance and these are the results it seeks to achieve through its decision to raise the interest rates for the treasury bonds, keeping in mind here that the ministry may resort after a while to reducing these interest rates if it deems it necessary to do so."

As for the Association of Lebanese Banks, it has on the issue of the high interest rates policy a viewpoint that is totally different from the viewpoint of the Ministry of Finance. 'Adil al-Qassar, the association's vice chairman, has said in the course of the explanation he has given AL-TADAMUN on this issue: "The high interest rates policy approved by the currency and financial authority is misplaced and will produce adverse results for numerous reasons, the most important being:

- Raising the interest rate by a large degree (by 2 points) and in one boost is something which the Lebanese money market will not be able to withstand and which will inevitably generate obvious troubles that will have negative consequences in the foreseeable future.

LEBANON

BRIEFS

SOUTH BEIRUT ALLOCATIONS--In its meeting on 8 August 1984, the Lebanese Council of Ministers decided to allocate 10 million Lebanese pounds for the implementation of projects to develop the southern suburb of Beirut. The sum was approved on the suggestion of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. The sum will permit the start of implementation of the construction and development projects for the southern suburb of Beirut which was damaged heavily by the fighting which erupted last spring between the Lebanese army and the Shi'ite militias. [Text] [London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 71, 18 Aug 84 p 61] 8494

DECLINE IN INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS--In the first half of 1984, the Lebanese industrial exports incurred enormous losses, declining by 47.06 percent in comparison to the corresponding period of 1983. The statistics of Lebanon's Directorate of Industry show that the value of industrial exports in the past 6 months amounted to 416,673,000 pounds compared to 787,077,000 pounds in the first half of 1983, i.e. a decline of 370,404,000 Lebanese pounds or of 47.06 percent. This decline in the value of industrial exports is attributed to the security incidents witnessed by most parts of Lebanon since last February--incidents which resulted in closing Beirut Airport and Beirut Port for more than 157 days. [Text] [London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 71, 18 Aug 84 p 62] 8494

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to think carefully, study and offer clarifications. The Soviet Union is not just any country, and the Soviet state's recommendations are not just any recommendations. In the language of politics and diplomacy, it is said that when countries study a plan, the plan is serious, even if it does not contain new, unknown elements, although it does contain elements which have not yet been recognized. There is nothing new under the sun, and plans do not come from a void in order to fill an area which has been fraught with crises and wars for decades and centuries.

A reading of the six-point sections in the proposal and a comparison of that with the nervous, deceptive Israeli response shows how much Tel Aviv, which is provocative and active in sterile wars on the one hand and is more and more intensively paralyzed in dealing intelligently with reasonable, acceptable peace plans on the other, is not serious or intent in pursuing the road to a just peace.

But yes, Moscow's plan is of the utmost seriousness, contrary to what Tel Aviv claims, and it is of the utmost realism, in a way which does not conflict with principles. Moscow is not Washington. Moscow, unlike Washington, has not accustomed anyone to a lack of seriousness in politics. In this regard, the Soviets are the master of the position of principle, contrary to what many of its determined adversaries or ephemeral enemies claim. This is the way they are, and, as they have repeatedly proved, they are masters with regard to the suitable position in the most suitable timing.

Is the situation suitable when Tel Aviv does not know what it wants and Washington does not know what it really should do? In answering this question, we should go back to what we said at the beginning, that Moscow's plan, declared 2 years after the expulsion of the Liberation Organization forces from Lebanon and Reagan's declaration of his evil plan to remove them from the political map, is a basket of plans in one. It contains much from the United Nations' successive resolutions, something from the resolutions of the Fez Arab summit, and something from the Franco-Egyptian plan which is still knocking on the closed American door. All these plans which have been presented have lacked something essential: the role and influence of the Soviets, first of all, an explicit definition of the role of the PLO, second of all, and a precise determination of the parties which are to take part in the desired settlement conference, third of all. All these deficiencies have been satisfied by Moscow's Chernenko plan, which is Brezhnev's plan, modified and with things added, more accurately, in detail. In a country other than the Soviets', plans are connected to the names of their advocates, but Moscow's plans are the policy of the Soviet state. Therefore one can say that the position regarding the proposed plan is that of real peace plans which can be carried out, not ones that are imposed or fragmentary in form and collapse the moment they are tested, that is, when they are tested to see if they are serious, comprehensive and just.

In spite of brilliant flexibility in the formulation of their plan, which is in reality the requisite international plan which was set forth after the positions of all the countries concerned were studied, this flexibility does not negate but indeed asserts that the plan is a complete whole. It is a plan which precedes the new American-Soviet detente, indeed the situation

of the Israeli wars in Lebanon. All, or the most important, of the Arab states which have tried, or some of which at least have tried, to create or fabricate a marriage or synthesis between the Fez Arab peace plan and the American Reagan plan for capitulation, will find that it would be easier and more just to create a state of marriage and synthesis between the Arab Palestinian and Soviet international plans.

The United States has engaged in a policy of keeping others from making peace, their own peace. It has pursued a policy of using others to make its own peace. The peace of the United States, since the October war and since its president Gerald Ford abandoned the notion of the international conference and embraced Kissinger's notorious notion, has led to war after war and crisis upon crisis, to the point where Washington, by the explicit or implicit agreement of all, has become the obstacle to peace in the region, not the peacemaker.

Europe has engaged in the policy of waiting for the results of American policy and of waiting till some Arabs accept it. It is not a coincidence that Western Europe has refrained from taking initiative and offering proposals since Reagan came to power, and the policy of hostility toward the Soviets, more intense hostility toward the Liberation Organization, and unlimited support for Israel came along with him.

Some Arab countries have pursued the policy of going along with the American peace, and some of them have also tried to play America's game in shutting the organization out of the resolution. That has resulted in the substitution of Arab reconciliation, which is desired and vital, with Arab feuding and disputes of unprecedented severity. This is the Arab situation which Israel and Washington want. It is the situation from whose sufferings the Liberation Organization has made every possible effort to extricate itself, and which it has sought to replace with a state of upright Arab action, succeeding in that in the Fez summit, whose resolutions some Arabs have not adhered to properly, having indeed gone to Washington in an attempt to reconcile it with the evil Reagan plan whose gist is that there is no room for a Palestinian state and no scope for the Palestinian people, because they are a dangerous people and their country would be a transmitter of heat!

Nonetheless, the Liberation Organization, which is a revolution, and a threatened one, has pursued the policy of a responsible country, has shown patience and has demonstrated wisdom and sagacity, while Israel has become afflicted with a state of insanity because its war against the Liberation Organization in Lebanon did not lead to any conclusions in the Bank and the Strip, or in the world. As for the negative results which have been achieved in the context of the Arab world, the Liberation Organization has suffered doubly from them, but it has tried, and is trying, to turn these negative results and bring Arab ranks close together, since, unless the Arabs go united to any conference for a comprehensive peace, there is no use in any comprehensive plan for a just resolution.

The Moscow plan has defined its six points, even defining how it is possible that there could be an Arab reconciliation and an Arab-Palestinian reconciliation, and how the road to a reconciliation and agreement in this area

PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY COMMENTS ON AL-ASAD INTERVIEW

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic No 521, 25 Aug 84 pp 8, 9

[Article: "Between the Statements Made and the Logic of Affairs"]

[Text] The French newspaper LE MONDE published a lengthy interview with President Hafiz al-Asad on 1 August 1984 dealing with answers related to our brother Abu 'Ammar. The journalist who held the interview tried to goad President al-Asad to take a subjective position and personal approach in the conversation with his question bearing on Abu 'Ammar. President al-Asad put it well when he said that he "did not like to express his opinion on people through the press."

The president then went on to give answers from the perspective of a political discussion and expressed his opinions on more than one point, including some we agree on and others we can only disagree on, whether these opinions are the result of an error in information or individual judgment.

President al-Asad said, "'Arafat has harmed the Palestinian cause and Syria." We can only reject this description from a man holding President al-Asad's responsibility. The Palestinian cause, although it is the cause of the Arab nation, is the cause of the people of Palestine, and the people of Palestine, by virtue of their experiences, do not give loyalty to their leaders easily. The Arab masses do not deal lightly with people who abandon the Palestinian cause, so how would they deal with people who harm it?

Our brother Abu 'Ammar enjoys very broad mass support inside and outside the occupied nation, throughout the Arab nation and the Islamic world and among the peoples of the third world, who, through their senses, understand the meaning of injustice and in whose imaginations enmity toward colonialism and love for people who stand up to it take concrete form.

This position by which the masses express their respect and appreciation for Yasir 'Arafat throughout the world cannot be compatible with the statement that Abu 'Ammar has harmed the Palestinian cause; indeed, the opposite is true.

So much for the general position. From the standpoint of essence, Yasir 'Arafat and his brothers have been leading the Palestinian struggle since

Arab borders, including the Syrian borders, have been closed off to the Palestinian resistance.

This confused Arab situation, especially as regards the offensive military option, has made it mandatory, in terms of environment and practice, that publicly known Palestinian military forces not be on the lines of confrontation which have been closed to it in the Arab arena; this makes guerrilla activity and organized mass struggle through its leaders mandatory, each in its own field.

This sort of situation has no bearing on the place where the higher command is situated, since effective communications exist and there is interaction between the command and our masses through the commanders of the arenas in which these masses are located.

The higher Palestinian command is not restricted to commanding the military struggle. There is the command of the political and media struggle throughout the international arena and the centers of the higher command for areas of combat, distributed among more than one Arab country by virtue of Arab circumstances, which have been extremely harsh for the Palestinian struggle.

President al-Asad then said, "We and 'Arafat are pursuing two totally contradictory policies." This statement inspires amazement and astonishment. So far we have not been able to discover one place or area of contradiction between the policy of the PLO under 'Arafat's leadership and the declared policy of Syria under al-Asad's leadership.

President al-Asad, in the same conversation, stated that he wanted a solution which was founded on United Nations resolutions. Hasn't that been Yasir 'Arafat's position?

Syria and the PLO, through Yasir 'Arafat in person, reached agreement concerning the Fez summit resolutions, and Syria and the PLO reached agreement concerning the Brezhnev initiative.

Syria and the PLO under the leadership of our brother Abu 'Ammar rejected the Camp David agreements and the autonomy plan which it presented.

The PLO, under 'Arafat's leadership, rejected the Reagan initiative by a decree of the Palestinian National Council and Syria rejected the same initiative through the Syrian media and the party's positions.

Syria and the PLO want Egypt to return to Arab ranks on a basis where it abandons the Camp David policy, and they are both in communication with Egypt by various means to that end. The position of the Syrian delegation at the Islamic summit conference was more than clear in this regard.

Syria gave agreement to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 while the PLO did not, but we do not consider that a contradiction; the same situation existed between the Egypt of 'Abd-al-Nasir and the PLO, for well known reasons.

The resumption of normal Syrian-Palestinian relations is a matter that is dictated by regional and national interests, and it is necessary that that take place through serious, tactful respect and interaction between the PLO and the Arab countries. That cannot be realized if disputes which obstruct proper actions continue in favor of the Zionist enemy and its hostile schemes, and in favor of American Middle East policy which is hostile to our causes and our nation.

The time has come for a successful Arab summit meeting. This requires that the Syrian-Palestinian dispute be eliminated and it requires that legitimate activity in Palestinian contexts, primarily the convening of the National Council, not be obstructed. It is our hope that we will see all this realized soon, if not very soon.

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Complex and Stimulating Challenges

There is no doubt that the huge oil and mineral resources available in the kingdom constitute complex and stimulating challenges, which impel it toward growth in the fields of scientific and technical education to meet these challenges. The university's goals were to train its students on the highest levels of sciences and engineering, in order to provide professional and administrative skills to offer services to the kingdom in the petroleum and mineral industries. An additional goal was to develop research that could disseminate information pertaining to these fields. Moreover, the university was committed without reservation, which distinguished it in a special way because of its being a technological university in an Islamic country, to broadening and expanding its students understanding of Islamic principles, and to implanting in their souls an appreciation of their ancestors' contributions to the world in the fields of mathematics and sciences. Therefore, the University of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, with its administration, faculty and students, and all of its programs, is dedicated to achieving these goals.

Number of Faculty Members

The number of faculty members currently working in the University is 686, of whom 44 percent are Saudis and the remainder of various nationalities. The majority of these are from the United States, Britain and Western Europe. There are also a large number of Arab and Muslim professors, in addition to the Saudis on the faculty, whose numbers are increasing each year.

English and Arabic Languages

All courses in the university are given in English, with the exception of Islamic studies and Arabic. Reference works and technical periodicals form the backbone of the university's central library, which also includes an excellent collection of books on the Islamic and Arabic heritage, social sciences and the humanities.

Teaching methods, programs and administrative and organizational methods have been prepared in accordance with the most modern international standards available, along with seeing to it that they were modified for application to the kingdom's needs.

An Independent Legal Entity

The University of Petroleum and Mineral Resources is considered an educational institution, enjoying an independent legal status. It operates under the supervision of an independent board of directors, called the university council. The council, which is chaired by the minister of higher education, is composed of the director of the university, seven members who are senior government officials, three senior educators and two administrators who have experience outside of the university.

obtain a higher degree on the international level, which permits the graduate to continue his studies in other universities or to practise a profession immediately after graduation. The courses in this college are marked by considerable dependence on the use of computers, especially in the engineering programs, computer sciences and the systems engineering program.

College of Sciences

The College of Sciences offers a 4-year curriculum, after the preparatory year, which qualifies the student to receive a bachelor of science degree in one of the following specialties: chemistry, geology and geophysics, mathematical sciences and physics. The college also has a Department of Islamic and Arabic Studies, which offers courses in Islamic culture, social science and humanities for all the university students.

College of Industrial Management

This college is distinguished by the teaching of management sciences from the technological standpoint and not from the point of view of the humanitarian sciences, as is the case in most world universities. The instruction is aimed at advancing the student from the stages of learning the basic skills in the field of his specialization to how to apply these skills to arrive at sound managerial decisions, by defining the options available to him in each case, and evaluating their costs and advantages, in order to reach an appropriate decision. This college offers an integrated curriculum, which gives the student an excellent educational and technological foundation, in addition to opening the way for him to learn the most modern theories and techniques of management, especially those that rely upon the maximum use of computers and scientific managerial methods, which rely upon statistical methods. Courses in the College of Industrial Management include the following fields: management, economics, finance, accounting and information classification.

College of Environmental Planning

The College of Environmental Planning is considered the most modern college in the university. It has been developed to cover an obvious need in the flourishing architectural and building fields in the kingdom. This has been accomplished by expanding the basis of the architectural program, which was one of the departments of the College of Engineering Sciences.

The College of Environmental Planning in the University of Petroleum and Mineral Resources is larger than an architectural college. Modern architecture requires three stages of professional specialization. They are design, which means concentrating on the purpose and the special use of construction; and technique, which means concentration on the cost. Each stage of this broad specialization includes, for its part, the stages of sub-specialization, and requires specific, professional instruction for the integrated architectural team.

Workshops

The university has 137 workshops for instruction and scientific research, in addition to the Institute for Research. These workshops have attained a high degree of development, whether in equipment, operation and maintenance. They share in achieving the university's goals in instruction, scientific research and public service. A great deal of important research is being conducted in these workshops.

Center for Information Classification (Computer)

The University of Petroleum and Mineral Resources was the first national institution to establish and manage a computer center, and the university's center is still the largest. It has an IBM 3033N, which is considered one of the largest and most modern of its type. It has a 8-million bit memory and storage capacity of 2520 X 8 + 317 X 8 million bits. In addition, there is an IBM 158/370 with a 4 million bit memory, and a storage capacity of 317 X 16 million bits. There are 249 visual display monitors tied in with the computer, distributed in the various departments of the university.

Services for Students and Faculty

The center provides services to the students and members of the faculty, since the computer is considered one of the important teaching and scientific research aids. Moreover, the center participates in classifying information for the management of the university, since it prepares salaries, organizes depository records and financial affairs, student and employee records, and prepares the budget, phone bills, etc., in short, all of the information that the university requires. Recently, a program of library operations was prepared for the computer, and a program for the operations of the purchasing office will be ready soon.

Two Units for Various Government Offices

In addition to these services, the information center offers its services to various governmental agencies and private sector organizations. These services include information systems design, such as systems to prepare salaries, manage warehouses, statistics, etc. They also include preparing technical studies, such as economic feasibility studies, and preparing plans and programs that will be entered into the computers of these agencies. The Office of External Services in the past 4 years, has prepared studies for the Ministry of Health, Foreign Affairs, Higher Education and Interior, as well as the Riyadh Water and Sewage Board. The number of agencies and organizations that have received services from the information center during recent years totals about 65.

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of 1982. Moreover, the peak load of the stand-alone networks in the district of Hafr al-Batin and in some remote villages was some 30 percent, since it rose from 44 mw in 1982 to 57 mw in 1983. Main growth was also achieved in the load of the tied-in network in the residential and commercial sectors, since the load in the al-Dammam district increased by 16 percent, al-Ahsa' 20 percent, and al-Jubayl 31 percent. As regards ARAMCO's peak demand for 1983, the report indicated that it was reduced by 5 percent over the 1982 figure. In the industrial city of al-Jubayl, last year's load exceeded 300 mw. This is considered a record, compared with 1982's peak which was 86 mw.

New Lines

The report pointed out that last year approximately 300 km of electrical circuit lines were added to the Eastern Province's electricity network, in order to transmit power some 69 kms or more. The total length of electricity power lines was increased from 5,295 km to 5,595 km.

During 1983, five high-voltage sub-stations were put into operation, with a total transformer capacity of 840 mw, volt, ampere. Therefore, the total number of high voltage sub-stations at the end of 1983 was 241, with a total transformer capacity of 24,340 mw, volt ampere.

The report stated that the number of subscribers, as of the end of last year, amounted to 242,900. More than 700 kms of electrical circuit lines were added to the network. This included feeder and main distribution lines to serve the new subscribers and to provide power to the farms.

Total sales of electrical energy during 1983 were nearly 13 thousand trillion, 990 million kilowatt hours. Last year, concern was concentrated on guarantying the integrity of the existing facilities' operations. Overhead feeder and distribution lines were also replaced with ground lines, and unsafe and old installations were also replaced. Preventive maintenance of distribution facilities and testing of the meters' installations was also emphasized, in order to guarantee their life expectancy and the safety of their operation. This has led to a considerable reduction in the number of cases of power outages for subscribers.

Increase in Support Activities

The report stated that a fundamental increase was introduced in support activities during 1983, since a detailed study was made of the means currently being followed to store materials, aimed at reducing costs and introducing the required improvements in this regard. A new system has also been started that will inventory the stocks of materials through the use of a computer, so that when it is completed, the company will be able to record and control the levels of stored materials.

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sellers in this field. Aside from the share that the foreign firms market, SABIC for its part markets its share, whether through the free market, or by entering into direct competition, or through long-range deals. Three months ago, SABIC contracted for its first long-term deal with the Italian firm AINICOM, by which SABIC will supply the company with 300,000 tons of methanol annually at current prices. Moreover, the contract will be renewed annually at current prices. Moreover, the contract will be renewed annually, unless either of the two parties wishes to abrogate it. SABIC has established two companies, one for marketing, and the other for marketing services. The latter is to serve the first company and its clients.

Since the beginning of planning and working to establish these projects, there has been talk that SABIC would benefit from the cheap gas that it has in abundance, either to flood the market with its products or to break down the price structure. This matter provoked a number of discussions with officials in the kingdom and several visiting delegations. The last delegation to visit the kingdom and look into this matter was the Japanese delegation, composed of 24 persons representing both producers and consumers. Ibrahim Ibn Salmah, the vice chairman of the board of directors, and the appointed member of SABIC, said that the delegation, after the visits it made to the industrial city in al-Jubayl and the discussions that it conducted with officials, returned assured that SABIC had entered the market on the basis of competition and that consequently, it has no interest in instability in the market or in selling at lower prices.

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

FIRST QUARTER IMPORTS DROP

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 19 Jun 84 p 2

[Article: "Abu Dhabi Imports Drop 26 Percent During First Quarter of Year to 3.2 Billion Dirhams"]

[Excerpt] The total value of Abu-Dhabi Emirate imports during the first 4 months of last year, 1983, dropped 26 percent from the same period of the year 1982. It reached approximately 3.2 billion dirhams, after having been 4.3 billion dirhams.

An analytical report of the Economic Studies Department of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the studies which the Department of Customs prepared about Abu-Dhabi's external trade for the first third of the year 1983 revealed that in spite of the decline in the value of imports of machines and transportation equipment from what it was during the same period of the year 1982, they still occupy first place among imports since the value of what the Emirate imported reached around 1.8 billion dirhams. This figure represents about 57.9 percent of total imports.

Following in second place comes the import of the manufactured commodities with a total value of 649.4 million dirhams, or 20.6 percent of total imports.

As to the imports of equipment and miscellaneous instruments, it gave up its third place to the foods and livestock section, since the emirate's imports of the latter reached about 217.5 million dirhams, this figure making up 6.9 percent of total imports.

The gross weight of the imported commodities during the first third of the year 1983 was about 589,100 tons, in comparison with 762,400 tons during the same period of the year 1982.

By comparing the total value of the imports with the gross weight, the average value per ton amounts to 5.3 million dirhams, in comparison to 5.6 million dirhams as was the case during the same period of the analysis of last year. Therefore, the rate of decline is about 5.4 percent.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

FORIEGN TRADE SHOWS SHARP DECLINE

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 16 Jun 84 p 2

[Article: "89.5 Billion Dirham "Trade Movement Between Emirates, Other Countries During 1983"]

[Text] The movement of the commercial exchange between the Emirates and the world declined by 10 billion dirhams during the last year to 89.5 billion dirhams in comparison to 98.9 billion dirhams during the year 1982. That was due mainly to the decline in the value of the state's oil exports.

According to the figures, which the last report of the Central Bank issued on the state's balance of payments during the last year, the total exports and re-exports from the Emirates reached 56.5 billion dirhams, while the volume of the imports reached 33 billion dirhams during the past year. The year 1982 recorded imports of 34 billion dirhams and exports and re-exports of 66.9 billion dirhams.

The state's oil exports dropped from 53.1 billion dirhams in the year 1982 to 43 billion dirhams in 1982. Likewise, gas exports dropped from 5.5 to 5 billion dirhams. This happened as a result of the drop in the level of oil production on the one hand and the drop in its prices by \$5 per barrel on the other hand.

As for the gas whose exports dropped by 9 percent, that resulted from the decline of the amount of the associated gas which is produced with the oil from the different fields since these fields are still being affected by the decline of production averages as a result of abiding by the quota which was allocated by OPEC.

The non-oil exports and re-exports reached 9.5 billion dirhams in 1983 in comparison to 8.3 billion in 1982. On another level the Emirates' balance of payments figures showed that the total surplus in the balance dropped from 6 billion dirhams in 1982 to 550 million dirhams in 1983.

The negative balance of the services and exchange balance rose from 4.8 to 5.5 billion dirhams, while the official grants-in-aid dropped from 2.4 billion dirhams to 1.3 billion dirhams in 1983.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

YSP CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON FUTURE PLANS

GF281810 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Sep 84

[Text of press statement issued on the conclusion of the meetings of the 13th session of the YSP Central Committee--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] The YSP Central Committee held its 13th ordinary session under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, during the period from 25 to 28 September 1984. The committee discussed a number of issues and topics concerning the party's activities in different political, economic and social fields.

The economic situation occupied a distinct position in the meetings of this session. The Central Committee looked into the level of implementing the plan of the third year of the Second 5-Year Plan in 1983 and highly valued the positive results achieved in the course of executing the plan which materialized in the emergence of remarkable increase in the economic growth rates and in effecting additional boosts in the levels of income, investment and living standards of citizens. The committee noted that social production increased during 1983 as compared with 1982 at a growth rate equivalent to 8.2 percent, while national income increased by 8.3 percent as per fixed prices. The average per capita income increased at a rate of 5.5 percent.

In the course of its review of the situation in the Yemeni arena, the Central Committee highly valued the efforts made on the level of coordination and cooperation with the leadership of the northern part of the homeland on the path of achieving a unified democratic Yemen. The Central Committee valued the results of the second session of the joint ministerial committee of the two parts which convened in Aden, and reaffirmed the necessity of continuing the development and improvement of the methods of coordination and cooperation, and of adopting the necessary measures in order to implement resolutions and conclusions agreed upon during the different unification meetings and contacts in the direction of increasing the effectiveness of the joint economic activity, expanding trade between the two parts, removing obstacles that may hinder the accomplishment of the aforementioned, and bolstering political cooperation between the two leaderships toward various national and important pan-Arab issues.

U.S. SAID TO BE 'HAPPY WITH STATUS QUO' IN AFGHANISTAN

East Burnham ARABIA, THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 37, Sep 84 p 17

[Text]

⊗ Apart from issuing regular statements, in support of the Afghan Mujahideen, the US contribution towards solving the problem of Afghanistan has not been very impressive. It seems that the Reagan administration has accepted Afghanistan as an area of Soviet influence and has used the Russian presence there to justify US actions in Central America and Africa. The argument that the Russians have expansionist designs in South Asia and the Gulf has, however, not moved the Americans to provide assistance to the Afghan Mujahideen, unlike the anti-Sandinista guerrillas in Nicaragua.

Rather, the continued presence of Soviet troops is being used as a propaganda tool to embarrass the Soviet Union in various international forums.

There are semi-official reports indicating that since 1980 the United States has been providing military aid worth \$30m a year to the Mujahideen through Pakistan. These reports have neither been denied by the Reagan administration nor confirmed by the Mujahideen. Interestingly, they appear in the press only when the Russians intensify their military operations inside Afghanistan, suggesting that the US has not written off Afghanistan completely.

The present American policy towards Afghanistan is similar to the policies pursued by successive US administrations since 1921, when an Afghan delegation's request for diplomatic ties with the US was rudely rejected by President Harding.

Behind this policy of indifference are American apprehensions about Afghan society. As early as 1933 some American businessmen were of the view that Afghanistan should be considered a

potential American market. But Wallace Murray, a Middle East expert in the State Department discouraged them, saying "Afghanistan is doubtless the most fanatic hostile country in the world. There is no pretence of according to Christians equal rights with Muslims."

Later, when John Foster Dulles organised the Baghdad Pact to contain the Soviet influence in Asia, Afghanistan was ignored completely. This American indifference was not due to some omission. In 1955, when asked to explain why the US was ignoring anti-Russian Afghans, an American official replied: "If the Afghans are already so anti-Russian we don't have to worry about them."

It cannot be assumed that the Americans were unaware of Soviet expansionist designs. Angus Ward, US ambassador in Kabul, warned in 1956 that the Soviet penetration and "economic aid in Afghanistan was laying a logistical infrastructure for a Soviet invasion."

Unlike Europe where, through the Marshall Plan, the US maintained a uniform policy towards various countries in the area, in South Asia it has pursued a biased policy, often playing one country off against another. This has resulted in the growth of mutual suspicion between the countries of the region. Relations between various South Asian countries have deteriorated to such an extent that even the crisis of Afghanistan has not brought them together to evolve a common strategy against the danger of Russian expansion. The argument that, together, India and Pakistan can pose a serious challenge to the Soviets has so far not convinced the Americans.

The US has toyed with the idea recently of creating a national government with the

REINSTATEMENT OF MONARCHY, SPLIT AMONG REBEL GROUPS DISCUSSED

East Burnham ARABIA, THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 37, Sep 84
pp 37-38

[Text]

Indirect talks between the usurper Karmal regime and representatives of General Zia of Pakistan are taking place in Geneva amid signs that a major split in the Mujahideen leadership is developing. If the split takes place, the political situation in Afghanistan could undergo a drastic change.

It seems that the Afghan royalists have succeeded in persuading secularists and traditionalists to set up an Afghan government-in-exile under ex-King Zahir Shah. This government is likely to be formed in September in Madinah after the Hajj by a grand assembly (Loya Jirga) of Afghan leaders and elders. The assembly is being called by Zahir Shah's representatives who have spent a considerable time in Peshawar convincing various Afghan tribal heads that the ex-King is the only Afghan leader who can achieve a quick solution of the Afghan problem.

The proposal for a government under Zahir Shah has not been received favourably by the Hizb-e-Islami and the Jamaat-i-Islami, the two major constituents of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahideen. Zahir Shah is clearly unacceptable to the Mujahideen. The two parties have consistently opposed any restoration of the monarchy, arguing that it does not represent the real resistance forces inside Afghanistan. It is believed that Zahir Shah would be acceptable to both Moscow and Washington.

Moscow is said to have suffered a serious setback in its efforts to build a stable and loyal political party to institutionalise communist rule in Afghanistan. The ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan remains divided between the Khaliqis and Parchamis. Because of these

factional differences, Babrak Karmal has been unable to call a party congress, five years after coming to power. In the first and only national conference held in 1982 Karmal himself referred to "factionalism, anarchism, lack of discipline, localism and ethnicity in forming party cadre."

Moreover, widespread defections by Afghan government troops have put the burden of the fighting on Soviet forces. This is creating unrest within the Soviet army. With high Russian casualties the situation is worsening every day and the morale of the troops is said to be the lowest since Soviet occupation began. 1979

There are indications that Constantin Chernenko might accept a nationalist government under Zahir Shah if the ex-King is willing to safeguard Russian interests in the country. It was Zahir Shah who, after succeeding his father in 1933, provided the Soviets with facilities for consolidating their position in Afghanistan. In August Pakistan ordered all Afghan Mujahideen groups to leave Peshawar because, according to officials their presence was giving half a million Pakistani inhabitants of the city "a feeling of uncertainty."

However, the question is why was this decision taken a couple of weeks before the Geneva talks? It may be argued that the Kremlin had warned Pakistan of possible Soviet and Babrak Karmal troop cross-border raids against Mujahideen on Pakistan territory if the Mujahideen were allowed to operate from Peshawar or nearby areas.

Zia's representatives want to go to Geneva in a conciliatory mood, seeking to give Moscow the impression that they are no longer keen in their support of the Mujahideen. In the past the Zia regime

FOOD SHORTAGES REPORTEDLY HAMPER REBEL ATTACKS

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 3 Sep 84 p 21

[Article by Tom Henegan]

[Text]

FOOD shortages are now so common in parts of Afghanistan that some guerilla units have had to scale down attacks on Soviet troops for lack of rations, according to key resistance leaders here.

Peshawar-based guerilla groups have begun sending seeds into Afghanistan and urging their fighters and local farmers to tend the fields of peasants who have fled to Kabul or Pakistan, they told *Reuters*.

The shortages, caused by repeated Soviet bombings of irrigation canals and the burning of crops, are part of an overall strategy to destroy the village infrastructure which supports the rebels in their war against the communist government, they said.

"Mujahideen have had to pull back from some operations because of a lack of rations," said Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Jamiat-I-Islami Party fighting in the north.

He and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, head of the radical Islamic party Hezb-I-Islami, said food shortages had hampered their men in at least six provinces, mostly in southeastern Afghanistan.

Their warnings about hunger in these areas tallied with reports from Westerners coming out of Afghanistan who say food is in short supply even in some traditionally rich agricultural areas.

Malnutrition

Hanneke Kouwenberg of the Dutch Support Committee for Afghanistan said she rarely got more than coarse flat bread and tea during her latest tour of central and northern Afghanistan. The hospitable Afghans usually give guests their best food.

The Panjsher Valley, a former Jamiat stronghold taken after a major Soviet offensive this spring, was the worst supplied, she said. "Some days we got only sugar and hot water."

Afghan Aid, a British volunteer group, warned last May that widespread famine could hit the country, especially the Panjsher Valley and the remote northeastern province of Badakhshan, because the five-year war had left many

farms untended, irrigation systems destroyed and cattle killed.

Food prices and transport costs had also risen, upsetting the usual pattern of food distribution, said a study funded by Britain's Overseas Development Administration.

"A high prevalence of malnutrition is common in some parts of Afghanistan and does necessarily indicate famine conditions," it said.

Shortages

Rabbani said the current shortages, which began with a dry winter and were then worsened by the Soviet offensive this year, forced Jamiat to hastily arrange seed shipments for farmers in guerilla-held areas.

"We prefer very resistant crops, like potatoes, because they grow underground and can survive bombardments," he said. "We're also sending in seeds for very strong wheat that can grow in cold climates like in the mountains in northern Afghanistan."

While guerilla-held areas are suffering shortages, Kabul enjoys good supplies because the government is

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES IN JANADAL REPORTED

Supreme Council Formed

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] The Supreme Council of Janadal has been formed as per draft constitution of the party pending nomination of the chairman, a Janadal Press release said in Dhaka on Wednesday night, reports BSS.

The members of the Supreme Council are Mr Ataur Rahman Khan, Prime Minister, Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Minister for Education, Mr Korban Ali, Minister for Jute and Textiles, Mr Reazuddin Ahmed, Minister of Ports and Shipping and IWT, Mr Abdul Halim Chowdhury, Minister for Agriculture, Mr Yousuf Ali, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, ex-Minister, Mr Shan Mozzam Hossain, Minister for Labour and Manpower and Babu Sunil Gupta, ex-Minister for State.

Mr Mahbubur Rahman, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives has been made Member-Secretary of the council.

Central Executive Committee

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Sep 84 pp 1, 14

[Text] The Central Executive Committee of Janadal has been formed as per draft constitution of the Party pending nomination of the chairman, a Press release of the Party said Wednesday night, reports BSS.

The members of the Central Executive Council are: Vice Chairmen Mr K.M. Aminul Islam, Dr Shafia Khatun, Mr M.A. Haque, Md Shamsul Haque, Mr Ali Amiad Khan and Hasimuddin Ahmed.

Secretary General Mr Mahbubur Rahman, Joint Secretaries General Mr Munsur Ali, Mr Shafiqul Gani Shawpan, Mr Abul Kalam, Mr Abdul Bari Warsi and Mr Mahbulul Haque Dulan.

Treasurer, M.A. Sattar, Joint Treasurers Md. Jahangir, Mr Abdus Sobhan and Mr S.B. Jaman.

ANTI-, PRO-MAHBADUR RAHMAN FACTIONS IN JANADAL

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 24 Aug 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Kazi Montu]

[Text] Ministers belonging to the Janadal have been polarised between two groups--one supporting its secretary-general Mahbubur Rahman and the other desperately opposing his supremacy in the party.

Ports and Shipping Minister Reazuddin Ahmed Bhola Miah, Textile Minister Korban Ali, Agriculture Minister Capt (retd) Abdul Halim Chowdhury and Women Affairs Minister Shafia Khatum have formed an alliance with Mahbubur Rahman.

On the other hand, Labour and Manpower Minister Shan Hoazzem Hossain who is a vice chairman of the party, Commerce Minister Dr Abdul Matin, Food Minister Air Vice-Marshal (retd) A.G. Mahmud, Water Resources Minister Air vice Marshal (retd) Aminul Islam and Shafiqul Ghani Swapan, State Minister for Youth Affairs have combined together against Mahbubur Rahman.

According to a source, Mahbubur Rahman is also being backed by such powerful ministers as Establishment Minister Maj Gen Mahabbat Jan Choudhury and Health Minister Maj Gen Shamsul Huq. Besides, he is enjoying blessings of the backstage patrons of the party.

It is learnt that Shah Moazzem Hossain, Abdul Matin and A.G. Mahmud have incurred Mahbubur Rahman's wrath as they are considered potential contenders for the much-coveted position of the party's secretary-general while the holding of youth ministry by State Minister Shafiqul Ghani Swapan has stood in the way of the secretary general's scheme to bring the ministry under his control through one of his trusted lieutenants.

He considers the youth Ministry important as the responsibility of supervising the party's youth front has been vested with this ministry.

A list of the names for induction into the proposed supreme council was submitted to President Gen Ershad on August 19. It has not yet been approved by him, a highly-placed source says.

The list includes Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan, Textile Minister Korban Ali, Education Minister Shamsul Huda Choudhury, Ports and Shipping Minister Reazuddin Ahmed, Janadal vice chairman Mizanur Rahman Choudhury, Women Affairs Minister Safia Khatun, party leader Sunil Gupta and three other ministers who do not belong to the Janadal.

It is gathered that some in the party have become unhappy because of general's personal decision to observe "democracy day" on August 27 by passing the decision-making committees of the party.

A sizeable segment of the party has decided not to support 'democracy day.' The youth front of the party, Natun Bangla Jubo Sanghati, has not been active to campaign for the 'democracy day.'

In spite of opposition, Mahbubur Rahman has however, succeeded in expanding the organisational base of the party.

CSO: 4600/1006

Additionally, the Soviets have indicated that they were considering signing of a long term trade agreement with Bangladesh which would be instrumental to expand power generation, increased construction of railway carriages establishment of a steel mills and other infrastructure development projects. However, no substantive discussions at any level between the two countries has taken place yet. Obviously, this development has to be based on political consideration and a decision to that effect has to be taken at the highest level.

However, an analyst suggested that without higher level political decision in Moscow, these indications would not have been conveyed to the Bangladesh government and any further development in this sector would perhaps depend on the reaction they receive from Bangladesh side.

Another important development in this year's agreement was that the rate of interest to be charged on outstanding amount in excess of £700,000 swing credit to be allowed to each other by the designated banks from the two countries, was raised from 2.5% to 4%. Since Bangladesh has always enjoyed trade surplus with the Soviet Union, it would be more advantageous for this country than the Soviet Union.

CSO: 4600/1006

The Adviser said that the meeting also discussed threadbare the new long-term trade agreement to be initialled by the two countries by the end of this year.

Mr Syeduzzaman said that besides exchange of views with the Chinese Minister for Foreign, Economic and Trade Relations, Madame Chen Mahua, led the Chinese side at the meeting, he also held talks with the Minister for Finance, Mr Wang Bing Oian, and the Vice Minister for Planning and Finance, Mr Wau Yi Lin.

The Adviser said that in course of his discussions, he informed the Chinese leaders about the recent economic changes and policy reforms taken up by Bangladesh Government and the preparation for the country's Third Five-Year Plan.

He said that the Chinese leaders said that the economic ties between the two countries would grow on the basis of "needs and ability" of the two sides.

Mr Syeduzzaman said that they also had exchange of views on cooperation among the developing countries on international economic issues in various forums.

The Finance Adviser observed that the growth in agriculture and industrial products in China during the last three years on the basis of new policies should be a source of "great inspiration" to many developing countries.

He said that the Chinese authorities had indicated that suppliers credit would be made available on the basis of capability and resources of Chinese enterprises.

In this connection, Mr Syeduzzaman said that Bangladesh visualises development of economic cooperation between the two countries on the basis of a pattern which would be a contribution of state credit, suppliers' credit, joint venture and technical assistance.

He said the Chinese side had also indicated to supply 20,000 tons of rice including 5,000 tons of food aid for the flood victims under credit and barter programmes. He said that China had also offered to export a reasonable quantity of rice to Bangladesh on commercial terms to be negotiated by the two governments.

REPORTAGE ON AWAMI LEAGUE WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

Hasina's Speech Reported

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 Sep 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Diverse opinions on the burning political issues came from among the district leaders of Awami League who addressed the first-day session of the two-day attended meeting of the central working committee held yesterday at its central office with Sheikh Hasina Wazed in the chair.

The meeting is being considered as very important in the perspective of next course of joint movement and parliamentary election on December 8 to be held under this government.

The second-day session of the meeting scheduled for today is likely to take some significant decisions on the current political issues through discussions among the central and the district leaders of the party.

Addressing the yesterday's session of the meeting Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wazed underlined the need for building it as a more well-organised, disciplined and ideology-based political party in order to bring about an end to politics of killing and conspiracy formed from the soil of Bangladesh.

She said that the Awami League was involved in politics not for power, but to achieve total emancipation of the wretched people of Bangladesh. Our strength is people, not arms, she added.

She called for uniting people to restore their rights lost in 1975 after killing of the Bangabandhu by overthrowing the military government through movement.

The Awami League chief said we have to mould ourselves and move ahead on the basis of definite political, social, economic, cultural, education, labour and agricultural programmes. Otherwise the party would not be able to implement the ideals of the Bangabandhu for establishment of an exploitation free society, she added.

The meeting began with the speech of the party's acting General Secretary Sajeda Choudhury who reported party's organisational activities in her speech.

The meeting in a resolution condemned the bomb explosion at the party public meeting at Baitul Mukarram on August 16 on the occasion of observance of mourning day. The resolution added that the identity of the person killed due to public beating after the explosion has not yet been disclosed by the Government. Terming this "significant," the resolution said that it means that the Government wants to bypass its responsibility and does not intend to check this type of terrorism.

The meeting expressed sympathy with the flood affected people and said that the relief measures taken by the Government is inadequate in comparison with the damage caused by the flood. The meeting criticised the distribution of relief through Janada. Tour of government leaders in the name of relief distribution is actually intended to organise Janadal, the resolution said.

The resolution alleged that the Government was silent about any long term comprehensive plan to check the recurrence of flood every year.

The meeting expressed concern over the killing of Jubo League leader Tutul at Pabna by the so called Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal supporters recently. The meeting on Wednesday was addressed, among others, by Presidium members Mr Abdul Malek Ukil, Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Mr Abdus Samad Azad, Mr Abdul Mannan and Mr Zillur Rahman. Begum Sajeda Choudhury, Acting General Secretary of the party thanked the district leaders for their cooperation and advice. It may be mentioned that besides members of the central working committee, members of national committee presidents and general secretaries of district unit also attended the meeting.

CSO: 4600/1015

Official sources indicated that Bangladesh continues to uphold its position of sharing the river's waters on a long-term basis as Obaidullah Khan had proposed in his February letter.

Bangladesh, they indicated, remains opposed to inter-basin transfer of water.

On the Ganges negotiations, they said Bangladesh would not shift from its position.

Commission Report Finalized

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] The expert level Ganges sharing committee of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission has finalised its report on sharing the river's waters during the last dry season which ended on May 31, at its meeting held in New Delhi, reports BSS.

The Bangladesh team leader at the meeting, Mr Amjad Hussain Khan, Member JRC on return to Dhaka told BSS on Monday that the teams of the two countries would submit the report to their respective government.

The sharing arrangement for two dry seasons made in October 1982 under the memorandum of understanding signed between Bangladesh and India expired on May 31.

Bangladesh has been pressing India for long for renewal of the agreement on a long term basis.

The three-member JRC Committee team which had left for the Indian capital on Wednesday last included Mr A.S.M. [line illegible] Abdul Khaleque, Executive Engineer JRC.

Bangladesh Seeks Renewal

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Aug 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] Bangladesh has formally approached India for an immediate renewal of Ershad-Indira agreement on the sharing of the Ganges waters to cover the dry season beginning January 1985.

Disclosing this at an exclusive interview with the Bangladesh Observer at the Foreign Office on Thursday, Mr Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, Foreign Affairs Adviser to the President, said that Bangladesh Government is continuing its efforts to find an immediate solution to the problem so that a vacuum is not created and Bangladesh's interest in this vitally important area is not adversely affected.

The arrangement for two seasons beginning January 1 to May 31 for the years 1985 and 1984 for sharing of the Ganges waters was reached during President Ershad's visit to India in 1982. The agreement has expired on May 31 this year.

BRIEFS

RETURN FROM PRC--The 5-member delegation led by Dr Shafia Khatun, Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, returned to Dhaka on Wednesday after a 15-day visit to China, reports BSS. Senior officials of her Ministry and representatives of various women's organisations received the team at the Zia airport. Dr Shafia Khatun said the visit was very fruitful and it would further strengthen the existing friendly relations between the two countries particularly, in the field of women's development. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Sep 84 p 14]

TRIBAL STUDENTS' APPEAL--Dhaka based tribal students union has called upon the government to stop the settlement of outside people in the tribal zones of the Hill Tracts. In a statement issued in Dhaka the representative body of the tribal students said the existence of the tribal communities in the Hill Tracts was threatened due to massive influx of non-local settlers in hill tracts. They hoped the government would take new attitude towards the problem keeping in mind the human aspect of the problem. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 Sep 84 p 1]

BORDER THEFT REPORTED--Maulvibazar, Aug 30--Eighteen buffaloes were lifted by the Indian nationals led by BSF personnel on August 25 while three cowboys were grazing them at Hacharkona Char which is well inside Bangladesh territory under Kulaura Upazila, reports BSS. The Indian nationals of village Kalipur under Kailashahar of north Tripura backed by BSF personnel of Ranguti camp entered Bangladesh territory and on their way back lifted the buffaloes to India. The B.D.R. authorities have already taken up the matter with their Indian counterpart but till now the matter appeared without any result. The buffaloes belonged to Jitendra Malakar (3), Kari Abdul Mannan, Md Wahabullah, Mokbul Ali and Mowla Miah, two each and Ananta Malakar, Monoranjan Malakar and Surendra one each. They all hail from Monohor Gona village. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Aug 84 p 1]

NEW FINNISH AMBASSADOR--Mr Jan Henrick Groop has been appointed Ambassador for the Republic of Finland to Bangladesh with residence in New Delhi, a Foreign Office announcement said, reports BSS. Born on February 26, 1934, Mr Groop graduated in Law in 1980. A career diplomat, Mr Groop joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1962. He served Finnish embassies in Geneva, Brussels and Stockholm before he became Ambassador in Baghdad in 1978. Mr Groop is married and has two daughters. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Aug 84 p 10]

blessing of the revolution. In this connection, since we consider the press as having a vital and effective role, and conscious that the press does not in its present situation quench the thirst and wishes of the people to know more and become aware of the problems, and noting that the purpose of the domestic press is criticism and proper investigative treatment of various issues, observing the necessary piety--even though in this connection, some have not realized this grave responsibility of the press or forget and speak against this necessary and essential role in various assemblies and lectures and try to stop its formation in newspapers--with a sense of commitment to the Islamic revolution and the Hezbollah nation, we began our conversation concerning the shortcomings of and self-censorship and criticism in the press. We complained about the lack of active, revolutionary behavior on the part of some of the ministers and other authorities in their dealings with the press. We said: There is a lack of dynamism in public relations; in fact, these offices have become great obstacles for the press; the authorities have in fact disrupted the organic relationship between the people and the officials. The result of this meeting, which follows, is a discussion of the actual role and practical presence of the people on the scene of the revolution, the shortcomings with regard to radio and television, governmental problems, the legal vacuum, economic problems, the expanse of the interests of the revolution, and the absence of students and academicians on the political and economic scene.

This interview may not respond to all the questions, ambiguities, and problems existing in our revolutionary society. Various strata of readers may expect the newspaper to raise the questions which address their problems. We are aware of this and believe that the mission of the press and other mass media at this juncture of the revolution is to provide the necessary grounds for the exchange of views and ideas, to find the roots of problems, to avoid slogans and generalizations, and to expose deviant events and policies. Hence, we held our interview on this basis. In conclusion, in

the growth and awareness of the people, and this growth and awareness is the greatest investment for our regime/ [in boldface]. Although at the present time the newspapers suffer a degree of self-censorship, what has been noteworthy in the evening newspapers recently has been the comprehensive reports investigating and analyzing all aspects of an issue. These reports can be very informative for the people, particularly for the officials. In my view, these reports could be shorter and more concise, quickly analyzing several issues and offering solutions; as such, they would inform the people on issues in a shorter space. Perhaps one of the best activities now started in the newspapers is that, due to the shortage of space, we do not spend too much time on an issue, in order to inform the people and alert the authorities on several essential issues on one day. This, of course, depends largely on the ability and tolerance of the officials. Then the society will feel that objections and criticism are normal and an official is responsible for listening to these criticisms and mending his ways.

[Question] You pointed out the self-censorship of the press. Of course, some of it might be in order to protect the interests of the revolution, which a writer or reporter takes into consideration. However, in your opinion, what are the causes and roots of self-censorship, which unfortunately strongly governs the press and other mass media without having any definite boundaries?

[Answer] I believe that all the newspapers and the people place importance on the interests of the revolution. However, the problem is that the extent of these interests is not clear to the reporters. Of course, determining the limits can be contemplated, analyzed, and criticized in terms of not providing information to the enemies. The lack of clarity of these limits sometimes results in dulling the sharpness of a critique or report and sometimes (of course less often), when such criticism goes beyond the usual limits, it may result in weakening the government. (Of course, what is meant by the government is not the 23 ministers, but the goals of the executive system belonging to the Islamic revolution.)

In the Majlis discussions regarding national issues, a standard is gradually reached, through extremist and moderate tendencies, which determines the just statement which must be made and not hidden. In my opinion, the reporters, with their strong sensibilities, can understand this in connection with the Majlis and the government. Another point that can help in this issue is to strengthen the relationship between the media and the officials.

If there were certain meetings and seminars with the officials and the newspapers, this

The Role of Television in the Country

[Question] In connection with radio and television, among the people today, it is considered a government organization which does not actively engage in transmitting the problems and difficulties of the society, mostly acting in one direction from the officials to the people, and whose news and reports are generally second hand. It has often been observed that a report broadcast by foreign radios opposing the Islamic revolution of Iran goes out over the radio or television or even by the press of our country. While causing distrust of the domestic mass media among the people, this issue has compromised the reputation of the Islamic revolution. It is unfortunate that the people hear some of the news of their own country with distorted by the foreigners. Also, thus far, television has not clarified its direction in the broadcast of entertainment and artistic programs. The present lack of programs can cause the appearance of cultural and social deviations, promoting and establishing the standards and values of foreign cultures.

[Answer] The issue you mention has several dimensions. It was stated that the Voice and Vision is a government organization. If we take government in its broad sense, which concerns all the forces in the country, that is true. But if we take government in its common sense, whose news and positions are presented, I do not agree. In this connection, we consider the government to be oppressed in comparison with other governments of the world; it is not true that the official policies are dictated to the Voice and Vision. Of course, the Constitution has anticipated certain interests. For instance, we have official athletic policies in the country and the policies that are broadcast through radio and television are included among them. /But, as the prime minister, I announce that I do not, by any means, agree with the programs that I see on radio and television. They do not reflect the official policy of the government and are destructive. But in regards to some other issues, such a situation exists. In my opinion, the Voice and Vision tries to move in a direction to strengthen the government. We thank the brothers in the Voice and Vision for this. But it is not arranged that all the official government policies are paid attention to/ [in boldface], such as higher education, education, sports, and foreign and domestic policies. This is the situation with the Voice and Vision. I believe that the Voice and Vision (besides the criticism which was just made and partly due to the nature of the Voice and Vision in the regime of the Islamic Republic and must be resolved somehow) is making strides that may be exemplary in the whole Third World. /For instance, the economic vision which is produced for television is a sharp program; its producers do not compromise; while there is deep compassion for the regime and the government in this program, which we appreciate, this interest and comparison has not caused them to

expertise, ideology and commitment. Finally, we see that the ideological individual keeps the expert and they come to an agreement. In any case, what is important is the message of the film. In that film, there are perhaps 10 to 15 different issues for which solutions have also been offered. Nevertheless, these solutions influence the public mind. /I do not know whether or not the Voice and Vision does anything in connection with Western or Eastern films, but, of course, the Western films are more mischievous and surreptitious. Our solution in this regard is to encourage domestic production. In my opinion, the newspapers, with their praise and criticism, can prevent the growth of "weeds" and bring more attention to the pictorial arts and their growth so that we will be rid of the evils of this dependency as soon as possible/ [in boldface], because dependence in cultural and artistic areas is more deadly than dependence in industrial and economic areas.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, the point in question and which you referred to was the need to report the problems and difficulties of the people. The criticism we think exists in regards to your government involves a lack of proper treatment of the people on the part of government and other authorities. Why do you not discuss with the people the problems, obstacles, and complications, and the hard, rough road of the revolution--which is natural--as you should? Certainly, if the people are informed of the problems and obstacles, not only will they not allow themselves to be afraid, but they will cooperate more than ever before. This issue is so important that the imam frequently refers to it in his speeches; it is, in fact, one of the ways to continue the presence of the people on the scene.

[Answer] In regards to explaining the issues, as I pointed out in the beginning, the government is weak and in this area, the ability to explain the issues and problems to the people must be created. But this issue aside, there are issues that cannot be discussed due to the war situation. For instance, in the Friday prayer in Qom (two weeks ago), I cited an example of these problems. But realized both that it was difficult for me to do so and that I must censor parts of it. Also there was little time. About a year and a half ago, when we had the problem of wheat and bread, how could we tell the people how severe our hardship was, that we had swept the silos clean, that we had transportation problems, or that no correct planning had been done in regards to the purchase of wheat? If we had explained these problems to the people at that time, in my opinion, those problems would have increased. Hence, at that time, we suffered in silence and engaged in complicated, extensive measures to improve our situation, and we increased our supplies in a manner unprecedented in the last 50 years. Now that this problem has been resolved, we are able to tell the people about it, whereas, at that time, it would have resulted in public fear.

Explaining the Problems to the People

[Question] When we invite the people to cooperate and ask for their support, we must consequently provide the necessary information concerning various issues, including procedural affairs and the goals and the obstacles of those who are in the opposition, in order to attain the practical cooperation of the people in addition to their support. Otherwise, making use of the revolutionary zeal and excitement of the people without offering information can have bad consequences in the long run and result in a lack of the presence of the people on the scene. For instance, we can explain the existing economic situation and the existing shortcomings, obstacles, solutions, and policies and define the boundaries of the people's cooperation in order to expedite the attainment of the goals and expose and eject the deviant movements with the help of the people.

[Answer] In these areas, at the present time, explanations are provided to the people as much as possible. Of course, there may be issues that have not been explained. For instance, the government has always existed in a legislative void (which I have mentioned since about two years ago). Neither this nor any other government can deal powerfully and decisively with problems and issues in such a void. The examples that I have provided thus far consist of five fundamental issues. If the existing legislative void is eliminated in the area of these issues, we will be able to move more rapidly. They are foreign trade; land; taxes; the issue of the private sector, for which a bill was presented two years ago to the Majlis and remains stagnant; and the issue of the law of the councils, which, I believe, could be very helpful in solving our problems, such as distribution and order in the cities and villages, if it were resolved rapidly. These are fundamental laws which the government needs to have at its disposal, and without which certain practical problems would arise. In such a case, the explanation of the long term goals would also be difficult for the government.

There is some doubt as to whether what we say about foreign trade will be the same thing that the Majlis will ratify or whether it will be considered by the Council of Guardians as conforming to the religious laws and the Constitution. Another example is Article 49, which is one of the important articles of the Constitution. When this Article was discussed in the Assembly of Experts, I remember that much excitement was created among the people. Despite the existing difficulties, the government devised a bill for its implementation in the course of two years.

Of course, during the time of martyr Bamonar, the Majlis had instructed the government to devise this bill. (My purpose in relating its history is to facilitate an understanding of our problem.) This issue, which also has a judicial aspect, was

say, for instance, that in regards to rice, the government believed that by rationing (in emergency situations) it could very easily put such a commodity at the disposal of the people, along with a few other essential items. But there are other views as well: that imported rice must be distributed or rationed by the government, and that in order to encourage production and put the forces of the people to use, domestic rice must be part of a free market. The government (since we do not have a dictatorship in the country) is obliged to take into consideration various views. If the clerics in the north do not agree on the issue, no matter how much we insist, even if we are right, it will not be carried out. In examining other views, first of all, those of the president and the Majlis are at issue as revolutionary institutions, and the views of each play an essential role. Or, for instance, if there is a proposal with which the judicial branch disagrees, certainly this causes problems in our work. Therefore, we see that all the points referred to restrict the area of government activity even more. Contrary to popular thought, the government cannot do everything; it simply cannot. The government is able to work within the course of realities; if it does not take into consideration some of the conditions for every decision maker, this will certainly harm the regime and itself. A proposal can be implemented in the country when it is supported by the people, the leader, and the revolutionary figures of the country. If a decision is made and it does not follow this course, it will certainly fail. In fact, while this issue is one of the main differences between the regime of the Islamic Republic and other existing regimes, it is a blessing from within which carries with it certain burdens for the government, and it may hold certain disadvantages. But, on the whole, it is a good distinction. For instance, in regards to rice, perhaps our views do not agree very much with the new proposal. But we cannot face the realities inflexibly, because of the ill will it will cause. Naturally, the government values the views of the revolutionary figures, the people, and the clerics under such circumstances. Now, out of several programs, two may have ill effects, but I believe that most decisions made in this way and which follow this course are in the interests of the country.

[Question] Please explain the blessing to which you refer in this connection.

[Answer] Sometimes structural decisions are made and the structure has been legitimized due to its legislative situation. In the Islamic Republic, the government can be considered mostly as a high organizational body whose decisions and measures require numerous forms of consent in the society, including the counsel of the people, the clerics and revolutionary figures, and the institutions. This characteristic guarantees the increasing presence of the people on the scene. Of course, it slows down

headquarters to deal with the subsequent problems and to provide aid. When we examine the activities which began in late winter of last year, we realize the role of the people in resolving this issue and would not consider success to be only the result of the government efforts. Had the government not provided the necessary resources with the help of the people to fight the effects of the drought, we would have faced a vast migration, which we have succeeded to resolve through the faith and interest of the people and their presence on the scene, thereby preventing a national tragedy and disaster.

Another point is that the views and opinions of the people at the present are very important in protecting various policies and the regime. The Majlis and the authorities are under the influence of the people and the people believe that public opinion is effective in determining the fate of the revolution. Hence, we see that in speeches and other propaganda, primary use is made of this lever to preserve the revolution. The imam emphasizes this issue as our sharpest weapon. In other words, if the people withstand the hardships, the revolution will continue. In the practical sense as well, when we sometimes have an emergency, as we saw last year when we faced the problem of the transport of goods from the ports, with a little hint by the imam as to the problem, the problem is reduced in this area.

[Question] A part of the presence of the people on the scene is as you said, in other words, the people accepting the decisions and programs of the authorities and supporting them. Another part of the presence of the people on the scene, which can distinguish the regime of the Islamic Republic from other regimes in the world, is that the people can also participate in decision making, which relates to the administrative and bureaucratic system of the country. Are decisions made through definite government administrative channels and meant to be accepted by the people or are the people given the status and responsibility to make decisions and impose such decisions as well? Obviously, the government acts in accordance with the opinion of the people, but the important part of the presence of the people on the scene is the case in point.

[Answer] To do so, various mechanisms must be proposed. The most essential mechanism, according to which we can see whether such a thing is done in a regime or not, is the Constitution and the legal institutions. Are the organization, form, and classification of these institutions made in such a way that the views and ideas of the people are taken into consideration or not? In this area, we face different mechanisms and government systems. One form is Eastern, in which such a thing does not exist at all. In the Western kind as well, it is a sort of deception of the people in the form of such acts as participating in the presidential and parliamentary elections. Now appearing

[Question] In connection with the presence of the people, has the government thought about organizing and deepening this presence as much as possible, for instance, through parties, councils or societies?

[Answer] I believe that this great force is not sufficiently utilized. This might be the answer to the previous question as well. In practice, what is the ultimate manifestation of these inclinations? Our weakness is not in the people not being present, but in not making the best use of this presence. Considering this great power, with the previous miracles on various political, economic, and social levels, and the war, we can expect many other miracles and minds must move in this direction. Recently, there has been a discussion in the supreme agricultural council that we have not been able to make good use of this great force in agriculture.

The brothers offered a plan entitled the "martyr Bahonar plan," according to which school children are to be used for nurturing saplings and planting some vegetation and which can develop about 15,000 hectares of pasture land every year. The brothers in the Crusade say that by using the students, we will be able to raise the level up to 1 million hectares, and this would mean that we would be free of the need to import fodder, which is at a very high figure.

Well, when we think about this issue, we see that it can be done, but we have not made use of it. Also, due to the administrative and bureaucratic conflicts, which take us back to the previous questions, we have not succeeded in making full use of it. But since we have not made use of it or are unable to do so, we do not say that it does not exist. This force exists and must be a means for making use of these great resources. In the political area, in fighting the shah and many other issues, we were successful. But in the economic and social areas and in building a new system, I believe we have not made sufficient use of this resource.

Part II

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Sep 84 pp 26-27

[Question] Although the issue of the people's participation in various dimensions is one of the essential concerns of the revolution, and it can be said that the factor for the survival and continuation of the revolution is the presence of the people on the scene, allow us to raise the next question. One question which comes to mind is: Why have the essential economic problems of the revolution not only failed to be resolved, but even become more complicated, despite the presence of the people on the scene as well as the passage of nearly six years since the

opinion, the passage of time and the realism which appears can advance us in the direction of devising more realistic laws. I especially invite the attention of the readers who are interested in studying. In our regime, in addition to the Constitution, in which the economic system has been shaped, the economic levers have been placed at the disposal of the government. When we nationalized the banking system, it meant that we placed this strong lever at the disposal of the government to support all strata of the nation. This is not something that can be reversed. It gives a form to our system by itself. Or we nationalize major and heavy industries and place them at the disposal of the government. This has been determined by the Constitution and in terms of the interests of the revolution, everyone knows that they cannot be transferred to the private sector. This also forms our economic system.

Barren Lands Belong to the Government

We have problems with the distribution system. As I said, we have not yet decided. Yes, it is true that we have not made a final decision in this area. The directives which are given now suggest that we make use of the private sector in this area. At the same time, no one denies the role of the government in establishing a fair distribution system. But there is debate about what form it must take, whether it should be in the form of supervision or control. These are the discussions that we are having. In the area of the investments of the private sector, there have been extreme movements, both rapid and slow, in the past 30 years. What is becoming the rule--and, in my opinion, is correct--is that, other than those industries which are clearly cited in the Constitution, there is no need for the government to take over small consumer factories, such as compote manufacturing factories. These are factories in which the private sector can compete. And if there is a need at one time, as allowed by religious and civil laws, to break up a monopoly, the government can enter the market. This is an idea in which legislation is needed to clarify our duty. But there are a number of fears in this regard, which will result in political pressures and might cause a certain degree of mental anguish as to which direction we must move in. But if we return to the roots, we see that the problems are somewhat more clear than in the past. In the area of problems relating to land, there are apparently no doubts at the present time that the barren lands belong to the government, and that the government must take measures in this regard. However, in the implementation methods, we have problems. In Khuzestan, we have 1 million hectares of land which can be cultivated and distributed. But wherever we want to start, one of the dependent (mostly on the previous court) sheiks, for example, appears with a document saying that the land belongs to him.

necessary to do so. We do not believe that when we say that foreign trade is nationalized, it means that, for instance, we should import needles and pins ourselves. The private sector can handle a significant volume, which will be beneficial to the country, and, therefore, must be included in this area. We have gained much experience in the ups and downs of this law which we have implemented and these experiences will affect the writing of the new law and the views expressed in regards to this law.

Success in Foreign Trade

Among the representatives in the Majlis and the government itself, the argument has been raised whether when we say nationalized foreign trade we picture nationalization and Article 44, which we had two years ago, in one form, or it might be in another form now. What we thought was in the interest of the people at that time is different now. All of this has resulted from the vast experiences we have gained in this area. For instance, in regards to foreign trade, we believe that in many areas success has been excellent, and in some areas, we have been weak. This shows that we must make revisions in those areas. We must turn to the roots and determine where revisions must take place. Our ideology can best teach us how and where such revisions must take place.

[Question] If we want to examine the lack of a single model in principle, in fact, it goes back to whether particular economic and political views exist, at least among the authorities, and in order to achieve a single model, one of these views must at least have ideological and political advantages over another. Is this not so?

[Answer] In his talks, Mr Hashemi referred to the differences of opinion among the Islamic thinkers since old times in regards to various issues. But based on my own personal experience (although I am not an expert in those areas and only express my opinion in regards to executive affairs), I can say that the differences of opinion stem somewhat from the differences in experiences and evaluating experiences, the issues existing at the present time on the global level in regards to the Islamic revolution, the problems we have, and the methods we must follow, which are in the interest of the revolution and the people.

Differences in methodology are sometimes interpreted as differences in views. If these problems are eliminated, I believe that the problems will be solved more easily. In other words, the opinion of one expert differs from another in terms of methodology. I am not saying that this is all. I am not making such a claim at all. But, the problem is not what has been interpreted in the society (especially among the students and in the universities): that there must be differences of opinion,

should play, what sort of centralization they must have, and what form the taxing system should take. I consider it beneficial to promote discussions on these issues in the society in order to fill the void, to devise the laws in these areas and advance them. When we offer the issues in this manner, it will contain the problem you pointed out in a more complex form. After all, there are vast discussions in the legislative institutions. In fact, they choose certain views in their normal course. Of course, to create a law for the Islamic Republic is more complex. The laws ratified in the last Majlis were laws appropriate to the Islamic revolution. We had no laws contrary to the interests of the people and our ideological standards.

For this reason, we must place the emphasis on filling the gaps in order to solve the problems.

[Question] Of course, our question goes mostly back to your clear analysis and views concerning the situation. Otherwise, if you were to answer from the viewpoint of the prime minister, the answer would be that we have a legislative void.

[Answer] Well, I have to and in fact it is my duty to deal with the issues from this perspective. In other words, it is proper in practice to deal with the issue from this perspective in order to resolve the issue.

[Question] Will this slow, turtle paced movement which now exists in devising the laws and also in building the economy of the revolution be able to solve the great problems of a revolution as large as the Islamic revolution, which hopes to be a model for others, or, in your opinion, is there need for a more rapid and stronger speed?

[Answer] We must move rapidly in this area. Certain methods must be created in the Majlis and must deal with the vital questions of the revolution more rapidly. However, if we look at the whole of the movement, it is not turtle paced. When you look at the political structure of the country, it is truly unmatched in the world. You do not see any regime that has reached its ultimate political structure so rapidly.

I believe that we have stabilized this issue and now we are sure of ourselves. We know that we are not under the influence of the Chinese, the West or the East, or the monarchical ideas, because the political structure base has stabilized. Even the foreigners admit that this regime will not fall apart soon. In other words, they have lost hope. Now we can engage in solving our economic problems with more self-confidence. Despite the pressures on the government because of the shortages or the legislative void or the pressures placed on us in the area of conflicting opinions, despite these pressures, I am optimistic. In other words, when I

stronger and more fundamental signs in order to see how they have been shaped and whether or not they are in the interests of all the strata of the nation, and in what direction they move. By noticing the signs and looking at them in terms of future directions, we will be better able to judge. Besides trying to react to the current incident, this regime must pay attention to the issues in more depth, and this issue, which incidentally has not been examined, must be paid attention to.

We Must Be Anxious and Watchful

[Question] By benefitting from the experiences of liberation movements, we realize that considering the conflicts that have existed among the ideological, revolutionary ideas of the people and the officials of the movements with the actual foundations of the societies, ultimately, these conflicts have helped stabilize and continue the actual foundations, foundations which were reminders of the previous regime and were developing in the same direction, considering that the global capitalist system has also desired the continuation of the same course. Now there is such anxiety about ourselves: What problems are solved by the conflict between the economic and social system inherited from the previous regime, which as a capitalist regime, is dependent on global oppression, on the one hand, and on the revolutionary ideas and thoughts that exist in the minds of the people and authorities of the revolution, on the other hand? Will this also end in the interest of the same actual foundations? In other words, will it submit to the circumstances and social determinism? I do not know if what you meant by being realistic is the very thing that I mention as submitting to the circumstances, circumstances which impose those foundations. This requires the creation or the existence of conservative veins which can explain our inherited situation or resolve them in terms of revolutionary ideas and their imposition. In your opinion, is such an anxiety logical and justified?

[Answer] We say that from the beginning of the victory of the revolution, we have had this anxiety. I do not say that we must not be worried. If this anxiety is lost, we will slip into deviation. In today's world, we are moving on a straight line thinner than a hair. If we are not watchful at every moment, we might slip. In our foreign policy, the same problem exists. We might transgress. In advancing economic issues, the same problem exists, which might force us to slip. In connection with the industries, it is true that 70 to 80 percent of them have been nationalized, but due to dependence in terms of raw material and spare parts, they might have an effect on our foreign trade and foreign policy.

For instance, now there is a natural tendency to choose Western technology, because we are more familiar with this technology,

rule of the values of the revolution. We have much hope for the universities in the future when, God willing, they grow and progress, and, as a significant political force relying on the ideology, they are able to play a sensitive role in this country. We cannot revitalize Western, tyrannical and European values in our universities, because we have little or no specialized forces. The newspapers have a greater role in this than the government. They must constantly emphasize the revolutionary institutions, the revolutionary figures and ideology in the universities. The cultural revolution began in the universities. The government did not say, make a cultural revolution. And it is the same now. The protection of the revolution in the universities is the responsibility of the students and the media.

For the fifth plan, we have a manpower shortage of 260,000. Naturally, the government's problem is how to attract this manpower from the universities. If we do not think about this, we are not a government at all. But what keeps the ideological line in power in the university, and as a result in the society, are the forces of the people and those in the universities.

Necessity of the Existence of Students at the Center of Issues

[Question] At present, the views of students in regards to various issues has been practically set aside.

[Answer] Unless the student sets himself aside, he must come to the center and see that the leader of the revolution, who is the greatest dynamic force in the revolution, has said that the universities must be involved in the affairs. One cannot speak more openly than this. He said that the university should participate in the elections. The position of the imam is the position of the whole regime and all the people. Students must take advantage of this opportunity and get involved in the centers. If they think that the government will come, take the students, and place them in the centers, this is an incorrect understanding of the issue. The brothers in the stabilization office and the Islamic student society who are ideologically committed should come and talk, engage in discussions, and participate in the affairs. Of course, we have said it and request that they understand the problems of the government and we are certain that they can offer solutions in this area. The government is not apart from them. It is not like before, when the government was facing children. At the same time, their strong presence is not bound to the permission of the government. The political activities for which the student has been issued a government permit are really useless and ineffectual.

We saw the results in our elections. In the future, we shall see this more strongly, provided the students preserve their relationship with the leadership and with the ideology and, secondly, are conscious of their own force, rather than thinking that instructions should come from above whether the university should or should not have a share. Essentially, there is nobody in this society to determine the place of student political movements. This would be exactly like saying that there are a number of people above who are dictating how the people should walk. In our society, such divisions do not exist.

10,000

CSO: 4640/7

Your Eminence's specialty is in Islamic philosophy and jurisprudence, but you have made Islamic jurisprudence a pretext for interfering and expressing your opinion in executive, political, military, economic, social and technical affairs. Every day the news tells us that such and such military or state authority had an audience with the nation's imam and reported on such and such a topic, and the nation's imam issued the necessary guidance.

As a fresh example, I will mention this news item, which was published by IRNA on Tuesday, 28 August 1984, station: 'Abedi Ja'fari, minister of commerce, stated: His Eminence the imam has drawn the broad outlines of the country's economy, and the Ministry of Commerce will act on the basis of that plan.

Furthermore, Musavi, the prime minister, in an official announcement on the same occasion, implicitly lifted the responsibility for the country's new commercial policy off the state's shoulders, and wrote: In light of the guidance from the supreme leader!!, since the state must follow the imam!, the following items are hereby promulgated to the executive agencies...

Rafsanjani, Khamene'i, and other regime spokesmen have clearly said on various occasions and continue to say that the nation's imam is the beating heart of the nation, and it is this beating heart that makes the final decisions on the nation's affairs.

Now I ask Your Eminence, what experience, expertise or skill do you have in commercial, economic, political, military or international affairs that you interfere in all these areas and make decisions? Have any of these various reports stated that you hold the entire responsibility for the huge blunder of the hostage-taking and its tragic toll on the Iranian nation, including the signing of the shameful Algiers Accord, according to which, as stated by the deposed Iranian president and U.S. authorities, Iran had to pay 11 billion dollars in damages?

11 billion dollars is an amount which, if the country were administered by technicians and committed, faithful people, would cover the educational costs of 295,000 university students with a monthly stipend of 500 dollars for a period of 6 years. What happened to that money? What did it do for the lives of the youths who today must raise the torch of science and learning in Iran as doctors, engineers and technical experts? Allow me to say: The money went into the pockets of U.S. capitalists, and the students were sent to the Behesht-Zahrah Cemetery.

Has it been said that you personally bear the responsibility for the continuation of the ruinous Iran-Iraq war and for losing the best opportunities for a truce to the benefit of the Iranian government and nation?

When Your Eminence, who is chief of the tribe, cannot overcome his desire to interfere in government affairs, what can you expect of some ordinary prayer leader who is appointed Friday prayer leader and the imam's representative by two strokes of your pen? He considers himself your imitator, he follows you, and interferes in the work of the commander and the governor-general. An eye witness told me that during the tenure of the temporary government, the cabinet

Many prominent clerical personages have quit the scene and pulled aside because they have observed these phenomena and wish to keep their own hands clean.

The small number who did not consider silence permissible, and wanted to act according to their religious duty, meaning enjoining the good and forbidding the bad, and who have pointed out the perversions, have been subjected to unprecedentedly abuse by the government. If I point to the oppression of the two great sources of imitation, Shari'atmadari and Tabataba'i, of Qom, I need say no more. The desire for opulence, corruption, power-seeking, gaudy ceremony and spend-thrift ways have no connection to Islam and no relation with the clerical community.

Those connected with the leadership and the government's high authorities have founded this impious innovation, and whenever they come out of their palaces and their costly protective enclosures, there can be hope that others will follow. Advice given by those who do not practice what they preach will continue to be without effect.

Peace on those who follow the true religion.

Paris--September, 1984. Dr Seyyed Mehdi Ruhani, leader of European Shi'ites

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CSO: 4640/431

order to further its own programs in the region will have no effect on the determination of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We are certain that in view of the vigilance and unity of the Muslim nations, all hindrances and difficulties which lie in the way of campaign against international imperialism and Zionism will be removed and finally sacred Palestine will be purified of the curse of the presence of the Zionists.

CSO: 4640/37

countries in choosing their sociopolitical system in accordance with their own wishes.

The Communist Party of Iraq decisively condemns the suppression and terrorism inflicted upon the fraternal party, the Tudeh Party of Iran, and announces its complete solidarity with that party's struggles for its sublime goals. The Tudeh Party of Iran declares its full solidarity with the fraternal party, the Communist Party of Iraq, which, despite hardships and bloody terrorism, struggles for the sake of the implementation of its just goals.

The two parties stress the need for the intensification of struggle against the plans of imperialism in the region which are being implemented through various plots, especially through overt military intervention, in order to gain complete domination over and to impose their wills upon the people of the region. The war fleets of imperialist countries are sailing the waters of the Near East, the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, and are threatening the peace and security of the masses of the region as well as world peace.

The two parties decisively condemn the anti-Soviet campaign waged by imperialist circles in order to give rise to an anticommunist hysteria to be used in turn as a weapon of aggression against the masses and the countries of the region.

The two parties express their complete support for the struggles of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO against imperialism and Zionism in order to achieve the right to return to their homes, to decide their own fate and to establish an independent state.

The two parties express their support for the struggles of the Lebanese people and patriotic forces of that country to liberate their lands, which have been occupied by the usurping Israelis, and in order to implement the program of national accord.

The two parties announced their support for Syrian solidarity in the face of the pressures exerted by American imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

The two parties expressed their anxiety over the critical international situation, brought about since the end of the seventies as the result of the domineering policies of American imperialism, substituting the policy of confrontation and war for a policy of easing tensions and peaceful coexistence.

Struggle for peace is the duty of all communists and all progressive mankind. The socialist countries, led by the Soviet Union, are an invincible fortress of peace in the face of American aggression. The two parties believe that the struggles of our masses for an immediate end to the war and the elimination of hotbeds of crisis are our most important national duties and an important service to the cause of world peace.

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Iraq.

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growth would have led to a doubling of import requirements. At the time it was also easy to see that the highly favourable conditions in the oil market which prevailed during the first two years of the revolution were not going to persist, or at least Iran could by no stretch of the imagination be able to expand its oil exports at the same rate as it did during the 1979-82 period. Again, it was easily conceivable that with the continuation of the war Iran's foreign exchange burden was bound to intensify. However, our warnings in July 1983 issue of *Arabia* were not solely based on these considerations. A closer examination of the foreign trade statistics during the first four years of the revolution had shown that the major part of the import bill was composed of basic necessities. Food imports had risen above \$3bn in 1982-83 and were predicted to approach the staggering figure of \$5bn during 1983-84.

The table shows the balance of payments situation of the Islamic republic during the five years following the revolution. In the period 1980-82 Iran's foreign exchange receipts had fallen to about 14bn, which amounted to half of the recorded peak of \$25bn in 1977. In the meantime, due to the post-revolutionary disruptions in the economy, foreign exchange payments (goods and services) had also declined to about \$15bn from their recorded peak of \$24bn in 1977. The reason for the decline in foreign exchange receipts was partly government policy to reduce the volume of oil exports, partly the disruption of oil exports during the early stages of the war, and partly the slump in the international oil market after the 1979-80 price rises.

During 1982-83, Iran managed to rapidly increase its foreign exchange receipts to \$22bn by increasing oil exports and regaining its share in Opec output.

During that year, with the continuation of the economic slump and the maintenance of strict import restrictions, there was a considerable surplus on the current account of the balance of payments of \$6.3bn. It was this relatively large current account surplus which was interpreted by the authorities as a sign of a healthier foreign exchange position, and it was probably for the same reason that in 1983-84 the government pursued an expansionary policy by launching the \$170bn development plan and relaxing the import restrictions. It is important however to note that the \$15.8bn commodity import bill of 1982-83, in real terms, was equivalent to about \$10bn, or only 60 per cent of its 1977 value. In other words, an import bill of \$26bn in 1982-83 was necessary to purchase the same quantity of imports as in 1977-78. This gives an indication of the foreign exchange requirements in 1982-83 for returning the economy to a state of normal capacity utilisation.

Under these circumstances it is no wonder that with the attempt to increase the economic momentum and go ahead with the first development plan of the Islamic republic, the economy once more encountered a severe foreign exchange crisis in 1983-84. Imports rose by 40 per cent to a new post-revolutionary record of \$22bn. The foreign exchange revenues for 1983-84 are estimated at about \$18bn. The inevitable result was a current account deficit of \$4bn, which has turned out to be above what the foreign exchange reserves of the country could finance in the short term, let alone the possibility of sustaining this pattern of trade in the long run.

To finance the relatively large trade deficit in 1983-84 the country has had to rely heavily on short-term trade debts, estimated at about \$7bn. Set against an optimistic estimate of foreign exchange reserves of \$3bn, the scale and severity of

Iran's Balance of Payments after the revolution (in \$bn)

	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Merchandise exports	19.8	12.5	12.8	22.1	18.1
Merchandise imports	11.5	15.7	15.3	15.8	22.0
Trade balance	+8.3	-3.5	-2.4	+6.3	-3.9
Net services	-2.2	-1.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4
Long-term capital (net)	-0.1	-0.3	+0.2	-5.2	-0.5
Balance	+6.0	-5.1	-2.2	+0.2	-4.8

Note: Excludes short-term capital flows and military imports.
Source: Central Bank of Iran and the *Financial Times*.

Since its establishment, one of the most important slogans of the present regime in Iran — one which has been most effective in articulating the spirit of the revolution and rallying the support of the revolutionary masses behind the regime — has been that of political and economic independence. Political independence is more a matter of power relations than the volition of certain individuals or even the entire ruling establishment of a country. The present foreign exchange crisis into which the Iranian government has managed to entangle the country does little to achieve this political and economic independence — Iran is presently in dire need of hard currency and is ultimately at the mercy of those who can supply it.

In the course of the next few months the Iranian regime will face three options. The first is to end the war, take drastic action to rationalise the economy and to reconstruct after the devastation of the past four years. However, with the passage of time this option becomes more and more difficult and probably in six months' time will be impossible to follow.

The second option is to continue with the war and to follow more or less the same type of policies as carried out during

the past four years. This option, as noted previously, falls beyond the present financial capacities of Iran and to follow this path the Islamic regime would have to increasingly rely on the West for finance.

The third option is suicidal. In a desperate attempt to end the present stalemate the government may try to spread the war in the Gulf and block the Strait of Hormuz. Though this last option is totally irrational from the point of view of Iran, given the kind of mass mobilisation which the government has undertaken and the as yet unstable power relations within the ruling groups, this option cannot be entirely ruled out. Under these circumstances events would follow their own momentum and lead to a disastrous outcome for the entire Muslim world.

Recent moves by the Iranian regime indicated that they are going for the second option; the recent trip by the West German foreign minister to Teheran and his return with the message that Iran is ready to "open up" to the West is an important indicator. It is immaterial whether the Iranian authorities deny these remarks or not — for to continue the war the Islamic republic has no other option than to lower its barriers to the West.

CSO: 4600/21

Although the Soviets made no secret of their irritation over the crackdown on communists in Iran, Genscher gained the impression that the Iranian action would not stand in the way of new contacts between Teheran and Moscow. Since Teheran had been the one to initiate these contacts, Genscher underlined the importance of the West "reaching out" to the Iranians and changing the direction of their search for contacts--from the East to the West. Western analysts argue that Iran's embattled position in the Gulf war could be exploited to achieve this end.

Clearly the Germans are willing to use their economic clout to persuade Iran to return to the western camp. Genscher's talks focused on economic relations and the higher education of Iranians in West Germany. Genscher also raised the question of violations of human rights in Iran and the war with Iraq. This was in response to pressure from Iranians living in exile in Germany, who accused him of lending respectability through his visit to a regime which had violated and continued to violate human rights. Genscher proposed to his Iranian hosts the setting up of a human rights seminar comprising German and Iranian legal experts on human rights, a proposal which was, in principle, accepted by the Iranians.

However, the Iranians also accused the West of deviousness and of speaking of human rights only when expedient, while ignoring violations in areas with pro-western regimes.

The German delegation was also given to understand that Iran did not want the war against Iraq to spill over to the other Gulf states.

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The departure of most of these students of theology to Islamic countries takes place mostly without permission by the officials of the Islamic Association and are made according to personal decision.

These students are believed to try upon their return to Yugoslavia, to revive and implement religious values which are hardly in contradiction with the ruling social values.

In this respect, some Yugoslavian press agencies have reported on the activities of two Muslim theologians in the province of Kosovo and have charged them with trying to propagate fundamentalistic Islamic ideas after graduating from one of the Muslim countries.

These reports said that the two theologians believed that the true Islam has not been represented in Yugoslavia and that some of the Islamic cases in that country were against fundamental Islamic teachings.

Introducing Islam as a complete system of life which embodies both religion and politics is considered as an illegal activity under the pretext of interfering in political affairs.

The semiofficial Yugoslavian paper, BORBA, quoting parts of the publication ISLAMSKA MISAO, has attacked the latter for printing articles which conveyed the message for the future activities and measures to be taken by the Muslims there.

The ISLAMIC MISAO, in an article printed on the occasion of the beginning of the 15th Hejira century, wrote that there should not be any disunity among Muslims and that all Muslims should congregate under a single banner and in one Islamic country.

The trial of Dr Ali Izzat Begovic, a Muslim intellectual of Yugoslavia, who had been arrested for publishing a pamphlet called "Islamic Declaration," is a clear sign of the government's sensitiveness vis-a-vis any inclination of Muslims of that country towards Islamic principles.

The Sarajevo court last year sentenced Begovic and 11 other Yugoslavian Muslims to long-term imprisonments with hard labour. The court tried to charge Begovic with supporting ideologies of an organization called "Young Muslims" which, according to the press, started activities in 1941, with objectives including the fight against all anti-Islamic movements in the world, implementation of Islamic criteria in society, political freedom of all Islamic states and their unity as a single Islamic country.

To complete construction of mosques and Islamic centres, Muslims in Yugoslavia should inevitably ask for financial support from other Muslim countries. But, officials believe that financial assistance to Yugoslavian Muslims is one way of foreign penetration. They also believe that by such an influence Yugoslavia will be used as a bridge for strengthening Islam in Europe.

officials. Describing the martyrdom of one of the Iranian brothers in Medina, he said: In the assault by the Ba'thists and Saudi security agents on the Iranian pilgrims, in addition to the martyrdom of one of the brothers, it is probable that other individuals have also been martyred. This incident is itself proof of the corruption governing the regime of Saudi Arabia and the police of that country. They do not even permit the Iranian pilgrims to visit their wounded in the hospitals. Another sign of the corruption of the Saudi regime is that it has not arrested the perpetrators of this incident, or it freed them a few hours after interrogation, and has not displayed any responsibility in regards to the protection of the life, property, and families of the Muslims. Mr Kho'iniha stressed: Not only do the Saudi Arabian police lack moral competence, but the government of Saudi Arabia is not competent to manage the two sacred shrines. Concerning the motivation behind the attack of a group of Iranian pilgrims by the mercenaries of the Iraqi regime and the Medina security agents, he said: The main issue is that those who have been slapped by the political actions during the pilgrimage are trying to take revenge on Iranian pilgrims at the instruction of the United States, and, hence, they have engaged in this barbarous act.

While condemning the policy of the Saudi kingdom which is destroying the holy places in Mecca and Medina, the representative of the imam in the pilgrimage expressed hope that in the pursuit of this issue on the part of the Muslims of the world, they will realize it and stand up against this policy which serves the colonialists. Mr Kho'iniha, responding to a question concerning the management of the two shrines, emphasized: The two holy shrines belong to all Muslims and the policy for the administration of the two shrines must be determined and carried out by a group representing all Muslims. But at present, the government of Saudi Arabia has unjustly monopolized the right to make decisions unilaterally, without consultation with other Muslims. This is one reason why the government of Saudi Arabia is not competent to manage the two holy shrines in the future, when it falls into the hands of the Muslims, because at the present time, it has unjustly usurped the right from other Muslims. He expressed hope that the Muslims, with their alertness, the signs of which are clearly evident, will succeed in retrieving their rights in the future and will not allow a group which relies on principles and beliefs which are not only politically rooted, but which will result in dependence on colonialism to violate other people's rights, ignore the views of other Muslims, and govern the two holy shrines. The representative of Imam Khomeyni for pilgrimage affairs considers the break down of the great wall between the Muslims and true pilgrimage created by the enemies as one of the signs of the political actions of the Iranian pilgrims in the hajj ceremonies and said: With a movement which is carried out

of the success of the Islamic Republic in bringing up the problems of the Islamic world.

In concluding this interview, concerning the policy of the monarchical regime of Saudi Arabia as regards the ruining of the sacred places respected by Muslims, the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims said: One of the issues that has made us very suspicious about the authenticity of the Wahabi sect is the policy of eliminating the historical monuments of Islam. At all times, everywhere, throughout history, every nation and tribe, in trying to protect its cultural, scientific, and historical values, preserves the symbols of its ideology and nation. In Mecca and Medina, where the Prophet was born and lived and where dozens of historical monuments and memories exist, we see that the government of Saudi Arabia has destroyed them all by relying on the dubious sect of Wahabism. In addition to the elimination of Baqi' Cemetery in Medina, along the Mecca-Medina road, the grave of the great companion of the Prophet, Abuzar, who is one of the outstanding fighters of oppression in history, is about to be destroyed; the government of Saudi Arabia and the Wahabi sect intend to eliminate this grave and its monuments. The graves of the martyrs of Badr and Ohod and the Abutaleb Cemetery in Mecca are also in ruins. Dozens of valuable Islamic historical monuments in Saudi Arabia are being destroyed by the incompetent government of Saudi Arabia. We hope in following up this issue, we will attract the attention of the Muslims and make them stand up against this colonialist policy.

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examinations, or tuition with which to pay teachers' salaries, and thus the resources are placed at the disposal of a particular group. Are the schools going to be nationalized again? He responded: The nationalization of schools will not occur in the sense that is in our memory and the bitter history we had with the previously nationalized schools. He then said: As the imam of the nation said: Ask people for help and have them participate in the affairs. Such participation regards not only commercial issues but also cultural issues. Education throughout the country costs more than 50,000 rials per student. If a number of people volunteer to pay this amount themselves, education will save this amount and the amount saved will help those areas with no resources.

In any case, the [Ministry] of Education will not allow the schools to be specifically for a group of well-to-do people, and our purpose is definitely not to discriminate in education between the well-to-do classes and those not so fortunate.

In connection with the payment of tuition, he then said: A circular letter was sent to all schools during registration by the deputy office of education affairs of the Ministry of Education, according to which no schools, under any circumstances, may oblige the parents of the students to pay tuition. If anyone has done so, he has done so wrongfully; such money is religiously unlawful. If a person has been forced to pay tuition, he can come and I will repay him the money personally. Of course, if the parents of the students want to help their children's school, there is no problem. At the present time, we have schools in which prayer rooms have been built with the aid of parents, or they have added a floor to the school, or provided sports equipment. This aid must be paid to the parent-school societies, the amount depending on the ability of the families.

Concerning the admission to some schools, he said: Part of the circular letter announced to the schools that the schools are to give priority in admissions to neighbors. We do not know of any schools which have not admitted their neighbors. Of course, we have had some complaints in this regard, which were sent to the follow up committee, and these problems have been eliminated. Again, if there are problems in this regard, the people can bring them up for investigation.

Concerning the transportation service for teachers, he said: The problem of the transportation of passengers in Tehran is a general one. However, the general office of education owns 70 private cars for this purpose, and has leased a number of cars, buses and vans. It is hoped that with the help of teachers, the number of leased cars will increase in order to respond to the needs of the teachers next year.

REPORT CITES IMPROVEMENT IN ECONOMIC SITUATION

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 20 Sep 84 p 1

[Text]

The economic situation in Nepal in the last financial year has improved considerably over the preceeding year.

This is the assessment of the economic recovery contained in the World Bank Annual Report for 1984 reaching here Wednesday.

The report noted the continuing heavy dependence of the Nepalese economy on the weather.

Pointing out that following two relatively good years, agriculture suffered a drought induced decline of over 2.5 percent in the fiscal year 1983. The report pointed out that the effects of the drought were felt throughout the Nepalese economy.

Higher food imports and reduced agricultural exports led to Nepal's first overall balance of payments deficit in many years despite significantly higher aid receipts.

The report noted that with the assistance of foreign donors, His Majesty's Government was able to avert a major food crisis through the timely

importation and distribution of foodgrains and the successful adoption of measures to increase the winter wheat crop.

The winter crop programme involving a package of shallow tubewells, fertilizers, improved seeds and credit was concentrated in thirty four out of the Kingdom's 75 districts and was mounted with intensive field supervision.

In 1983-84, His Majesty's Government made similar efforts to intensify agricultural production, particularly the main crop, paddy.

These efforts, aided by good weather, led to a strong recovery in agricultural output and exports, thereby improving the economy.

The report, however, noted that over the long term, Nepal's development efforts continue to face major structural problems, including those of rapid population growth, deforestation, and weak public administration.

His Majesty's Govern-

ment has, the report notes, focused increased attention on solving these problems in the recent years.

This has resulted in the introduction of a number of programmes designed to reduce the rate of population growth.

In the area of public administration too, several significant steps have been noted by the World Bank. These include the raising of salaries of civil service personnel and the establishment of a public service training college.

In addition, some budgetary procedures have been simplified to speed up project implementation.

Noting that Nepal is blessed with vast water resources which, if properly utilised, can not only produce adequate irrigation facilities but also generate electricity and other benefits in a large measure: the report concludes, "In conjunction with direct efforts to increase production and reduce Nepal's dependence on rainfed agriculture, continued steps in these areas should enable Nepal to achieve development gains."

Both sides have also agreed to make best effort for the exchange of trade delegations and for promotion of border trade as part of the bilateral trade.

During its visit to the Tibet autonomous region Nepali trade delegation had called on the chairman of the People's Government of the Tibet autonomous region, Dorje Chhetan.

The delegation had also visited light industries, carpet factory in Lhasa and Gyannse and Segatse located between Kodari and Lhasa.

CSO: 4600/24

COMMENTARY ON PLANS FOR COMPLETION OF MAJOR NATIONAL HIGHWAY

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 7 Sep 84 p 2

[Text]

Reports that the remaining portion of the Mahendra (East-West) Highway is to be constructed soon by His Majesty's Government with the loans from the International Development Association and the Saudi Fund for Development will come as good news for all. Conceived more than two decades ago by His late Majesty King Mahendra, the East-West Highway project is without doubt one of the more exciting schemes undertaken in the Kingdom in recent times. As such, the news that this Highway will be completed within the next five years or so cannot but be enthusiastically greeted by all.

Aside from the fact that this ambitious project represents the crystallisation of the Nepalese people's desire to be able to travel from one part of the country to another speedily and without having to cross over into a foreign country, it has in time come to symbolise also Nepal's successful foreign policy. The latter is borne out by the fact that apart from loans such as the two just mentioned, India, Britain the USSR and the US have all helped to construct various segments of the East-West Highway. Taken together with other major highways in the hill area — such as those, for example, constructed by India and China — and feeder roads — such as the British-assisted Dharan-Dhankuta highway — it will not be an exaggeration to say that nothing less than a transportation revolution has begun, especially

BRIEFS

PLANNING MINISTRY LIKELY--The Planning Ministry is expected to be created in the near future. According to a source close to the Prime Minister, the new ministry will be headed by a cabinet rank minister. Political observers speculate that the Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission Dr. Moham Man Sainju will be promoted to the post of the minister of state. Creation of the Planning Ministry is the logical conclusion following the finalization of streamling of the Planning Commission and the National Development Council, the political observers said. The political speculation that Dr. Sainju might even take over the finance portfolio is given increasing currency in the capital. [Text] [Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 15 Sep 84 p 1]

CSO: 4600/24

relations with the Soviet Union? All this is still too fresh in the minds of millions of people to accept Reagan in his new garb as an apostle of peace, olive branch in hand and cooing like a dove.

President Reagan who had repeatedly reviled the Soviet Union, employing highly provocative diction and describing that Super Power and its political philosophy as "evil," is now suggesting high-level contacts that could lead to preparation for a U.S.-Soviet summit. After four long years of sterile sabre rattling, he now sees "no sane alternative to negotiations on arms control and other issues." But whether his meeting with Mr Gromyko, scheduled for today, would produce anything more than a photograph of the two leaders smiling and shaking hands, lies in the hazy pale of the days to come. However, even if their talks unfold any prospect of a meaningful follow-up dialogue at a later date, the possibility of a panacea for today's harried humanity lies beyond any immediate prospect of realisation. If Reagan wins the coming elections, the chances are that he will revert to his former militant rhetoric with an added zest.

CSO: 4600/14

Mr Ghulam Ishaq has stressed the interdependence of the developing and developed countries, and called for a cooperative framework with mutually supporting policies. When 40 percent of the exports of industrial states go to the developing countries, it is in the interest of the rich nations to help the poor states or debtor countries to speed up their economic recovery. If they do not do that, the developing countries will import even less than they are doing now and that would hamper Western economic recovery. He has hence called for "careful engineering" in place of a total reliance on the trickle-down effect of Western economic recovery, and strengthening the positive linkage between trade, debt and capital flows.

The complexity of the world economy needs to be understood better by the industrial states. While a recession in the West hits the developing countries hard, the economic resurgence of the rich states has hardly any beneficial effect on the economies of the developing countries. If the principle of economic independence of the have and have-not nations of the world is accepted, the industrial states have to bring an approach to the developing states far different from the one seen painfully for a decade now. If the dialogue between the rich and poor states, which is to begin in spring next year, makes a constructive contribution in that direction it will be a happy development. If the rich fail again, there is every likelihood of greater economic and political cataclysms in the world.

CSO: 4600/14

but it is a strange phenomenon that while India reserves for itself the freedom of choice in the matter, it raises a hue and cry whenever Pakistan buys new military hardware to replace its aging defence equipment. The Indian reaction to the acquisition of half a dozen F-16's by Pakistan is a case in point. Ever since Pakistan signed an agreement to buy the aircraft from the United States, Delhi has carried on a relentless media campaign about the so-called danger and threat of war from Pakistan.

Those who are in the know of the military balance between India and Pakistan and India's frenzied rearming of its forces which are the largest in the region, can only laugh at the Indian posturing. But this has not deterred India from carrying on its mendacious propaganda. If anything, it is India's neighbours who should talk of the threat to their security posed by its bulging arsenal. But they don't, while India objects to Pakistan doing even the barest minimum to keep its defences in trim. Needless to say, Delhi's stance in the matter is hardly conducive to the creation of a climate in which good neighbourly relations can thrive. Taking a long-range view of the situation, India's attitude in fact is tantamount to claiming the status of being more equal than the others which can be highly disruptive of regional peace and harmony.

CSO: 4600/14

cannot be ruled out that the reports about a pre-emptive attack on our nuclear plants by India (Israel too has been named as a possible attacker) is part of the psy-war being carried on against Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme and is being used as a ploy to prepare world public opinion psychologically to take the adventure without much ado if and when it materialised. We know how, despite numerous denials, hostile quarters have persisted with then crazy propaganda about an "Islamic bomb." The idea about an attack on Pakistan's nuclear plan is equally crazy, but we know contemporary history that there is no threshold of craziness and anything can happen when hostility and misconception combine into a mad adventure. It is therefore essential that we take all possible steps to make the defences of our nuclear installations impregnable. Let it be made clear to any would-be aggressors that the people of Pakistan will rise to a man to repulse any attack on their sovereignty.

CSO: 4600/14

OFFICIAL TALKS ABOUT INVESTMENT BY OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS

Karachi DAWN in English 29 Sep 84 p 10

[Text]

KARACHI, Sept 28: Investments to the tune of Rs 4 billion have been made by overseas Pakistanis under Non-repatriable Income (NRI) scheme in industrial projects in the country.

This was disclosed by Mr Reza H. Syed, Managing Director of the Investment Advisory Centre of Pakistan (IACP) while addressing a Radio Press conference here on Thursday.

Mr Reza Syed said that Pakistanis in the United Arab Emirates had set up "Expatriate Pakistan Club" which is ready to invest in industrial ventures in Pakistan on a joint basis. The Club has asked the IACP to identify projects for them.

The IACP chief said that they had identified projects for investment by overseas Pakistanis.

He said that an investment centre had been set up where four financial institutions of the country have formed a consortium.

Mr Reza Syed said that the IACP had prepared feasibility report for the establishment of an integrated textile mill in Nepal as joint venture where Pakistanis would be re-

sponsible for its management. The Rs 23 crore project will have 25,000 spindles and 450 looms.

He further said that another joint venture between Pakistan and Malaysia was in the offing for processing of palm oil into high valued table-butter and margarine. Raw palm oil would be imported from Malaysia and processed in a unit in Export Processing Zone. The entire products would be exported to Middle East. The IACP had already submitted the market report and Pakistan and Malaysia would jointly prepare the financial feasibility.

The Government has prepared an ambitious scheme for the production of industrial alcohol from molasses, a by-product of sugarcane. In this connection contact had already been established with Brazil which had offered to provide technology for this project, Mr Reza disclosed.

He said that it was a viable project and several private parties in Pakistan were actively considering to invest in it.

The IACP chief said that a foreign expert had identified 250

industries which could be set up from by-products of sugarcane namely baggasse and molasses, etc. He said that 33 million tons of sugarcane was produced in the country annually. He said that the entire six lakh tons of molasses produced in the country was exported. It could be fruitfully utilised in value-added product of industrial alcohol as in Brazil where it was considered as by-product of sugarcane.

He said that several paper factories could be set up based on baggasse as its raw material. Several factories in Pakistan were already partially using baggasse as raw material. Its technology was simple and readily available in the country. He added that there was surplus of four lakh tons of baggasse after the consumption as fuel in the country.

Answering a question, the IACP chief said the national consultancy policy had been framed under which services of foreign experts would be availed of only where it is unavoidable. Even in such cases, Pakistani consultants would have to be associated, he said. —APP.

SEPARATE MINERAL EXPLORATION AGENCY PROPOSED

Karachi DAWN in English 29 Sep 84 p 2

[Text]

LAHORE, Sept 28: The Chairman, Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC), Mr A.A. Malik, has proposed establishment of a separate mineral exploration and evaluation agency.

At a function here, Mr Malik stressed the need for provision of a line of credit by the State Bank of Pakistan for the mineral sector. This line should operate through Mineral Development Bank, he added.

He put forward several other suggestions for mineral development in the country. They are:

- A national mineral policy should be formulated and enforced without further delay with clear-cut demarcation of functions and areas between provincial and federal agencies; national priorities should be redefined and strategic minerals identified for exploration and development by federal agencies;

- Fragmentation of mineral deposits should not be allowed and consolidated blocks of the deposits

be developed for mining operations on commercial scale;

- Import of mining machinery and mineral transport equipment should be exempted from customs duty and sales tax for all areas. A system of incentives, including depletion allowance, tax holidays, etc. should be produced;

- The private sector should be reorganised on scientific and commercial lines. The small lease holds under the control of private sector should be grouped together to form larger economic units;

- In view of the larger energy requirements, the quality and quantity of coal reserves should be firmed up and for this purpose an appropriate institutional framework should be created;

- Export-oriented minerals should be made a part of barter agreements and that to make mineral export viable export rebates should be provided; and

- Divergent mining laws and mineral concession rules of different provinces should be made uniform.

CSO: 4600/16